

## Outreach Coordinator To Take Programs Into Communities

Denver Botanic Gardens has appointed a coordinator to extend its horticultural and educational programs into the communities of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. Gina Lee was hired in October 1991 for the new position of outreach coordinator in the Gardens' education department.

Lee has a diverse professional background in landscape architecture, education, land planning, community relations, research and analysis. She had a wide-ranging involvement in researching and analyzing federal regulations on environmental matters and the planning and design of residential and commercial developments, hospitals, new town developments and parks.

Before coming to Colorado in 1978, Lee was an educator in the Singapore school system and the executive officer of the examinations division in the ministry of education there.

The Gardens' Community Outreach Program will assist neighborhoods and interested individuals in developing community gardens, mini-parks and general neighborhood beautification. It will advocate conservation and using urban spaces for horticultural activities.

Initial emphasis will be in serving disadvantaged residents in lower income areas. Lee will organize workshops and other special programs for interested neighborhood groups and teach them horticultural skills and provide them with technical, strategic and materials assistance.

The program will impart the skills residents need to grow vegetables and ornamental plants. The community gardening will create recreation and exercise activities and encourage neighborhood pride, self-reliance and conservation of resources.

Also, Lee will initiate activities to beautify, humanize and revitalize bleak, often eyesore areas. Similar programs in other cities have resulted in a reduction in vandalism and have stimulated feelings of neighborliness; and the growing and eating of fresh produce have yielded nutritive and economic benefits to the communities.

The DBG Community Outreach Program will serve communities in the six-county SCFD. Funds from the metropolitan Denver tax district have enabled the Gardens to develop and implement the program.

For information, call 370-8098.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

**Denver Botanic Gardens  
January 1992  
Number 92-1**



*Yuccas and pebbles form a scene of beautiful contrast in the winter Rock Alpine Garden.*

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## Tributes

**In memory of Cile Bach**  
Crestmoor Park Garden Club

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Samuel (Marjorie) Childs**  
Perennial Garden Club

**In memory of Paul Goldman**  
Letty Weisbart

**In memory of Arnold B. (Budd) Gurtler**  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel D. Gordon

**In memory of Estelle Karden**  
Letty Weisbart

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Carl (Ann) Keener**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Kosanke  
Ms. Bridget Milnes

**In memory of George W. Kelly**  
Ms. Linda Boley

**In memory of Robert Olmstead**  
Marilyn L. Wall

**In memory of Helen Rippey**  
Garden Club of Denver

**In memory of Nat Sachter**  
Letty Weisbart

**In memory of Bill Wallace**  
Dr. Harold E. Most

## Employee of the Month

Jim Trammell has been recognized as the November employee of the month for organizing and carrying to completion, with the help of staff members from York Street and Chatfield, many volunteers and others, the most successful Pumpkin Festival to date. The third annual event, held October 12, attracted over 10,000 visitors. All of the festivals have been under Jim's direction—much of the work was done outside the hours regularly devoted to his duties as naturalist in the education department.

*Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths are on the itinerary of May trip.*



## Price to Lecture On Drabas January 10

DBG members are invited to attend a lecture on the genus *Draba* by its foremost American student and proponent, Dr. Robert Price. The talk is 7 p.m., Friday, January 10, in John C. Mitchell II Hall. There is no admission charge.

Drabas are small, often tiny, clump-forming or mat-like plants in the mustard family with showy heads of yellow or white flowers in early spring. Horticulturally, the perennial species of the genus are especially appreciated by European and American rock gardeners. They are native to higher elevations in the Northern Hemisphere. Price's talk will explore both their horticultural and botanical interest.

A Colorado native, who did his early botanical studies of the genus here, Price is a botanist at the University of Indiana. His lecture is sponsored by the Denver Chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society.

## May Trip to England Nearly Full

Only a few spaces remain for the Denver Botanic Gardens tour of England, May 10 to 25. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity to visit "the island of gardens" with other DBG members, call Betsy, at Cherry Creek Travel, 320-1070, or DBG's Andrew Pierce, 370-8002.

To recap this springtime adventure, the itinerary includes three of the country's most exciting regions for lovers of plants and gardens:

- The Cotswolds, where you will visit Bath, Salisbury, Stourhead and such estates as Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Court and Iford Manor.

- West and East Sussex, with Wakehurst (Kew Gardens in the country), Leonardslee, Sheffield Park, Rye and the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley.

- London, to see Kew Gardens, Hampden Court, Saville Gardens and the incredible Chelsea Flower Show.

These are only a few of the stops on the trip; between tour stops you'll have many opportunities to shop, dine and stroll on your own. Call soon to make your reservation.

## From the Executive Director

## 1992: New Plans, New Programs

The new year gives us a chance to reflect on the past year's successes and look forward to the months ahead when we can improve on those things with which we are not quite satisfied. This is a kind of institutional New Year's resolution time.

This past year was very successful from any standpoint. Our major events—the Plant and Used Book Sale, the *Fete des Fleurs*, the Pumpkin Festival, Blossoms of Light—were great successes. The new contract with the City was a monumental victory for the institution, and it gives the trustees great autonomy and allows us to move forward.

Funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District allowed important infrastructure improvements, provided for a major program to improve access for wheelchairs and strollers and has greatly strengthened our programming staff. It also gave us the wherewithal to continue a major reassessment of programs and facilities with the help of Environmental Planning and Design.

Our major challenge for 1992 is to begin the implementation of new programs and new plans. These new plans call for us to begin work this spring on a new garden and to make a host of changes to improve the visitor experience.

The support of our members and volunteers is vital and is deeply appreciated. With your continuing support, we can expand on the great successes of the past and move to a new plateau.

—Richard H. Daley

## Green Thumb News Number 92—1 January 1992

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**Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.**

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Len Chmiel 1992 Plant Sale Poster Artist

A painting by Colorado artist Len Chmiel has been chosen as the poster image for the 1992 Plant and Used Book Sale. "My Girls and Roses" portrays two children in white gowns cutting blossoms from a large bush weighted with red roses. They are surrounded by a world of greens—grasses, shrubs and shadows. Schmiel's unerring sense of design has captured in this peaceful morning scene a beautiful balance between the languid roses at the center of the picture and the intensity of the girls' interest in their task.

Chmiel is a nationally known artist represented by galleries throughout the West. His interests are wide-ranging: from still lifes to nature scenes and city scapes, and his brushes have captured scenes from Nepal to Mexico—and Denver Botanic Gardens. He is a master at applying the play of sunlight to his canvasses.

The original 31" x 25" oil from which the poster is made hangs in a private collection in Reno. The poster image is approximately 16" x 12"; the poster is 18" x 24". Printed on very high quality paper, as have been the posters of previous years, it is suitable for framing. Indeed, the Denver Botanic Gardens posters, produced in limited numbers, have become collectors' pieces. Most from former years—with images by Boulder artist Gayle Crites—sold out quickly.

The poster is available in the Gift Shop and at the Plant and Used Book Sale May 8 and 9. Signed copies are \$25, unsigned \$20. Matching note cards have also been printed. Call the Gardens' special events office, 370-8015, for information.

## DBG Accountant Muller Retires, Capron Honored

Congratulations to DBG accountant Judith Muller, senior accountant, on her retirement at the end of December. Judith spent 25 years with the City; she came to the Gardens 10 years ago from a post at Parks and Recreation. When she arrived she was the Gardens' one-person accounting department. How we've grown. Best wishes, Judith.

In other employee news, the board of trustees at their December meeting recognized Bev Capron, plant records, on her 30th anniversary at the Gardens. The most senior Gardens employee, Bev started her career here under the Gardens' first director. Her years of dedicated service were recognized with a plaque. Thank you, Bev.



My Girls and Roses by Len Chmiel.

## CONPS Elects DBG's Dawson President

DBG employee Carol Dawson was elected president of the Colorado Native Plant Society at its November 1991 annual meeting.

Dawson is a research associate at Denver Botanic Gardens where she carries out the Gardens' work in the Center for Plant Conservation. This program is charged with preserving rare and endangered plants in the center's Rocky Mountain Region, from northern New Mexico to the Canadian border. Her responsibilities involve two major efforts: first, to identify, locate and authenticate the plant species and survey their habitats, then to collect seeds and propagate the species. Once propagated, they are used for scientific studies, for increasing seed stock and for furthering the education about them and about rare and endangered plants in general. The Gardens' Endangered Species Garden, planted last year at its York Street site, is a tangible result of this educational effort.

In contemplating her upcoming presidency of CONPS, Dawson says her focus will be on increasing awareness of Colorado's share of these "plants of special concern." She considers the society's most significant achievement to date the publication of its 1989 monograph, "Rare and Endangered Plants of Colorado," and she would like to see the completion of a revised edition.

Also, she points out that Colorado has no legislation for the protection of endangered plants within its borders. The society is concerned that only the federal endangered species act brings the force of law to this protection: In Colorado, listed plants are protected only on federal lands. Though she admits that the legislative process is a long one, she notes the groundwork already laid by other members of the society, and Dawson is quick to point out that the society has attracted many talented, dedicated people with whom she will be working.

The Colorado Native Plant Society was incorporated in 1976 to promote the appreciation and preservation of Colorado's native flora and ecosystems. Membership is open to people who want to learn more about the state's botanical heritage. The society sponsors a statewide educational program that includes field trips to areas of special botanical interest and workshops on specific groups of plants. Its newsletter, *Aquilegia*, is sent to all members. Five local chapters in the state provide additional activities. Dawson has been president of the Denver Chapter for three years.

An employee of DBG since 1987, Dawson would like to explore opportunities, also, for cooperative ventures between the Gardens and the native plant society.



## Classes Listed In New Quarterly

You will notice that this issue of the *Green Thumb News* lacks the usual list of class descriptions by the education department. That's because the Denver Botanic Gardens education program has grown large enough to warrant its own publication.

The initial issue of a new quarterly catalog of classes and field trips was mailed to members, media outlets and other interested individuals in mid-December. In it are offered 49 classes in the areas of horticulture, horticultural therapy, botany, nature and nature walks, floral arts and nature crafts, botanical illustration, cooking and activities "Just for Kids." The 12-page catalog is current January through March 1992.

This expansion of the Gardens' educational capability was made possible by the addition to the staff in 1991 of specialists in both adult and youth educational programming.

Paula Ogilvie joined the department last year in April as the Gardens' adult education specialist. She was recruited to arrange the curriculum and teachers for continuing education and to develop new educational programs and events. She coordinated last year's Sunflower Festival, Noche Hispana and Day of the Dead and is planning a year of similar events in 1992.

Before coming to the Gardens Ogilvie instructed in the biology department of the University of Denver. She is past president of the Denver Orchid Society and has previously taught classes at the Gardens.

The new youth education specialist is Carolyn Knepp. She will develop children's classes at the Gardens and at Chatfield Arboretum and will devise botanical programs to complement the curriculums of Denver area school systems.

Carol is no newcomer to the Gardens. She was previously on the staff as assistant to the director of education, where she edited the *Green Thumb News* and scheduled classes and guided tours. She left in 1990 to complete her Colorado teaching certification in elementary education; she rejoined the staff in this new position in December 1991.

The current classes are listed, without descriptions or fees, in this *Green Thumb News*. If you want more information, please consult your copy of the new quarterly publication or call 370-8020. Also, if you know of someone who would like to receive his or her own copy, please let the education department know, at the number above.



A record number of shoppers lined up for the November Gift Shop Sale.

### Class locations:

Classrooms A, B and C are at 1005 York Street, Denver.

The DBG Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is at 2320 East 11th Avenue, Denver.

Chatfield Arboretum is at 9201 South Carr Street, Littleton (south on Wadsworth Boulevard 0.3 mile past C-470, west onto Deer Creek Canyon Road).

## Free Days Set For '92

Seven free days have been set for Denver Botanic Gardens during 1992 at each of its major locations: 1005 York Street and Chatfield Arboretum. There is no admission charge for Colorado residents on these days. They are scheduled with the approval of the manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City Council of Denver and in cooperation with the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

Those at the Gardens have been set to give the citizens of Colorado an opportunity to experience its displays and activities all during the year. Notable are January 20, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday; April 11, the beginning of Arbor Week; and December 9, when the Gardens will be decorated for its "Blossoms of Light" holiday celebrations. Chatfield Arboretum will welcome its visitors for free on convenient Saturdays throughout its regular open season. The complete schedules follow:

### 1005 York Street

Monday	January 20
Saturday	March 7
Saturday	April 11
Wednesday	July 22
Friday	September 4
Sunday	November 8
Wednesday	December 9

### Chatfield Arboretum

Saturday	April 25
Saturday	May 30
Saturday	June 13
Saturday	July 11
Saturday	August 8
Saturday	September 19
Saturday	October 24

## Guides Needed for National Rock Garden Convention

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society is recruiting field trip guides for the 1993 national meeting, which will be held in Vail.

If you would like to help guide the visitors coming from around the world for the "Rocky Mountain Rendezvous" call Sissy Gibson, 333-3744, or the office of the Denver Botanic Gardens Rock Alpine Garden, 370-8054, for more information.

## Library Collection Grows to 20,000

The DBG Helen Fowler Library, which has the largest collection of botanical, horticultural and related books in the Rocky Mountain region, has reached a milestone. Librarian Solange Gignac reports that on November 12 she accessioned the 20,000th volume in this collection, Mary Appelhof's *Worms Eat My Garbage*.

## Gift Shop Sale Draws Most Visitors Ever

The 1991 Holiday Gift Sale drew a record crowd in November. Attendance was up nearly 29 percent over that of the year before and, although the final tally has not been completed, the income, which will be allocated to support the Gardens' programs, was also up considerably. The sale was organized by the Gift Shop volunteers, volunteers of Chatfield Arboretum and members of the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild.



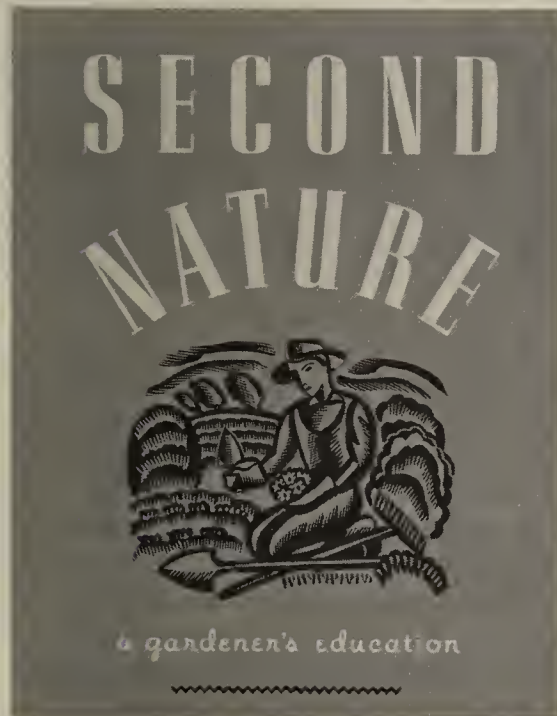


## Second Nature

### A Gardener's Education

By Michael Pollan, The Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, NY, 1991  
\$21.95 ISBN 0-87113-443-8

At some point in their lives, if they keep at it through enough seasons, gardeners find themselves pondering the relationships among civilization (the gardener), the garden and nature. Non-gardeners, if they think of these things at all, tend to see civilization and nature as forces in opposition. And a garden? It is an instance of civilization, the force of man, taming or "winning over" nature, is it not?



Gardeners, themselves, usually come to this same conclusion after a few seasons. But it remains a troubling credo, because who among us has not, at one time or another, looked up from our knees, considered the growing things around us and the smell of soil underneath, and thought and believed that our garden is a bit of nature. That's why we garden, isn't it? To get back to nature?

We want very much to hold to this belief. It only takes one season, though, of not pulling weeds and not picking off pests to realize that our garden is hardly natural. Nature is hornworms, aphids, pigweeds and hail, not corn or impatiens or watermelons.

Michael Pollan considers these gardener-garden-nature relationships through his own experiences in making and keeping a garden. It leads him into some fascinating discussions about our attitude toward wilderness, neighbors and being American.

They are literate discussions—Pollan is executive editor of *Harper's Magazine*. Historic allusions, from Empress Josephine of France to Thoreau to Greenpeace, enliven every chapter and anchor this volume firmly among the classics of gardening literature, one of the very few that are unequivocally American in outlook. But Pollan is anything but ponderous; this is humorous reading, often quite poignant, espe-

cially when the author remembers, in the early chapters, his own introduction to gardens and when, later, he brings back the influences of these early gardens to support a saner—not either/or—view of nature and civilization.

It is not a how-to-garden book. But it is a how-to-think book, for someone who has already attempted at least one garden. Reading it is a journey of self-examination and remembrance of your own experiences. As you lay it down after each chapter—it calls for thorough digestion—you will find yourself thinking of other gardeners with whom you want to share it. I had to give a copy for Christmas. No higher recommendation can be made of a book.

—Larry Latta

### The Xeriscape Flower Gardener:

#### A Water-wise Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region

By Jim Knopf, Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 1991  
\$14.95 ISBN 155566-077-0

This will become a standard source for all Rocky Mountain area gardeners. All the "hows" and "whys" are discussed in well-organized chapters and lucid prose. Our region has special problems that have not been discussed so well in a single book until now. The climate data for specific cities is very welcome. Knopf includes plans for water-saving gardens, together with estimates of costs. He discusses the immigration history of the plants he recommends, bettering our understanding of their growth habits and needs, and mentions their attractiveness to wildlife, birds and butterflies, as well as other attributes.

A lot of interesting information is set in sidebars or boxes. Furthermore, his own drawings and photographs enhance this book, with Denver Botanic Gardens appearing frequently. Besides two indexes (one for plants and one for subject matter), the author lists numerous Xeriscape demonstration gardens, sources for waterwise plants and seeds and organizations supporting the use of such plants.

Much research has gone into this book; only someone who really knows his subject could write so easily about it. Newcomers to our area would be grateful to have this book as a "welcome" gift. Savvy natives who left this book off their holiday wish list will buy it for the new year.

—Virginia Stratton is a DBG volunteer

## Annuals

### Yearly Classics for the Contemporary Garden

By Rob Proctor, Harper Collins, New York, NY, 1991  
\$29.95 ISBN 0-06-016314-3

## Perennials

### Enduring Classics for the Contemporary Garden

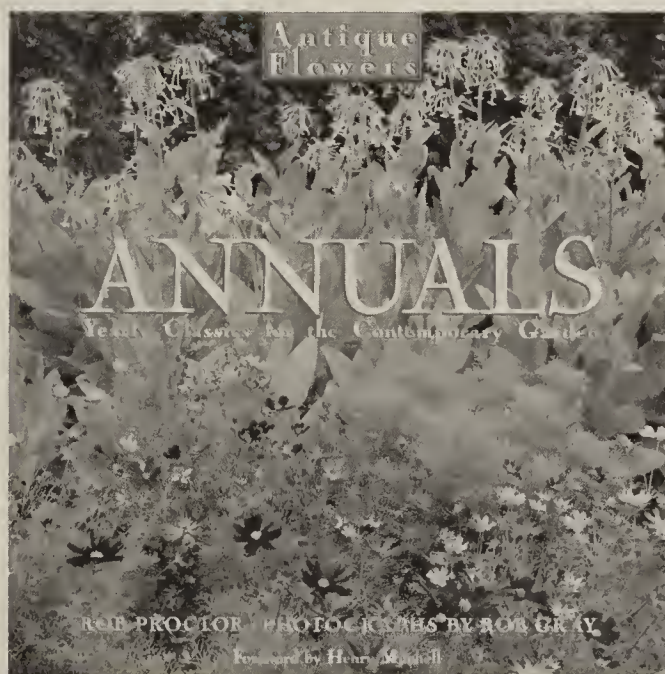
By Rob Proctor, Harper Collins, New York, NY, 1990  
\$29.95 ISBN 0-06-016315-1

These are two of Rob Proctor's recent books on antique flowers—flowers that have been used for at least 100 years.

I don't know Proctor, but I would bet dahlias to dandelions that he is a most charming host. To spend an hour or two with these books is like strolling through his private garden while he beguiles you with all sorts of interesting bits of information. It is only later that his lucky guest realizes that he has received a short course in the subject under discussion—such is the symmetry of the author's prose. Add to this the radiant photographs of Rob Gray, and these volumes cannot be ignored.

Each book begins with a history of its title plants and each includes a portfolio of individual flowers and lovely groupings. The author also includes a drawing of each flower, the etymology of its name and its social history. For example, consider *lysimachia*, or *looses-trife*, named for King Lysimachus. He used it to calm a raging bull. It calmed the beast, as it also did angry oxen, causing them to "lose strife." To use these plants in your garden, remember that "the yellow flowers are of good

value in filtered light," blending well with hosta or feverfew. Further, "They are rampant only in moist



soil...and thrive in the poor soil and shade of a friend's garden." In this manner and in detail, the author relays helpful, informative advice.

Both books conclude with a complete section of plant sources and an index.

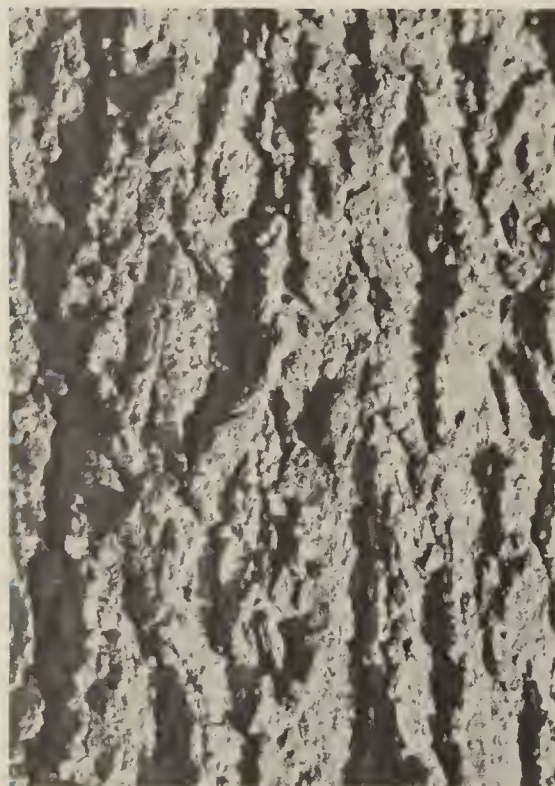
—Virginia Stratton



## After the Leaves: Trees and Shrubs with Winter Personality

The winter doldrums need not spoil your appreciation for landscape plants. Many trees and shrubs have distinctive twigs and bark that offer special interest in the winter. Their color, texture and form stand out now when such subtleties can be more easily appreciated.

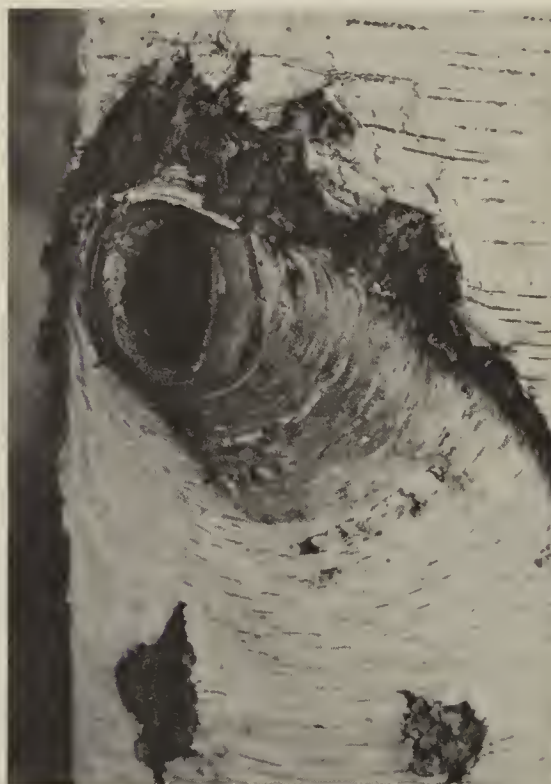
Bright colors are not totally absent from the garden in winter. Remember the first time you noticed the brilliant beauty of red-twig dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, in a snow-covered landscape on a sunny day? These same stems are often reddish-brown during the summer when the foliage is on the plant. After the leaves fall, the sun enhances the colorful pigments. A popular combination is a planting of red-twig dogwoods with their yellow-twig dogwood cousin, *C. s. 'Flaviramea'*. This is one of winter's most eye-catching combinations. Look for these dogwoods next time you drive past Denver Botanic Gardens. A nice group is located near the south end of the York Street display.



Winged euonymus, *Euonymus alatus*, planted primarily for its scarlet fall color, has one of winter's most fascinating twigs. The stems of this 10- to 15-foot shrub produce four prominent, corky wings that are particularly curious on close inspection during their dormant season. The species is seen less these days and has been largely replaced in popularity by the compact cultivar *E. a. 'Compactus'*. Although the compact form is better suited to the scale of most residential landscapes, its wings are reduced or nonexistent. Winged euonymus cultivars are planted in several locations throughout the Gardens. One specimen with especially prominent wings is *E. a. 'Monstrosus'*, located about fifteen feet south of the mountain alder tree in the cutting garden.

The Wingsong Garden has two tree species with noteworthy bark. A pair of Manchurian cherry, *Prunus maackii*, is located at the east end of the garden, just behind a bench in the peony garden. These trees display the lustrous, smooth bark of orange to reddish-brown that lends winter interest to this ornamental tree long after the white flowers of spring, the foliage of summer and the small black fruits of autumn have fallen. As the trees mature they develop a flaking or exfoliating character of the bark that is frequently seen in this species.

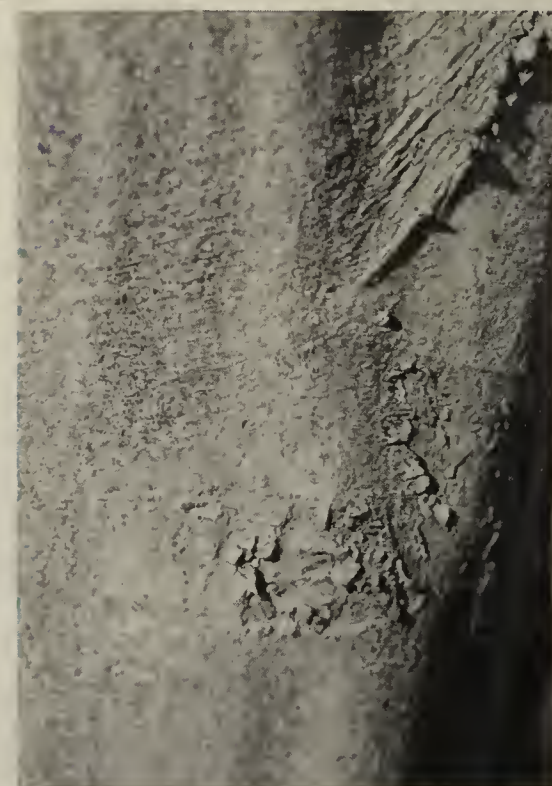
Although the appearance of pine trees varies little throughout the seasons, winter is a good time to pause and appreciate their often coarse and distinctive barks. On top of the berm at the east end of the Wingsong Garden are located some lacebark pines, *Pinus bungeana*. This Asian conifer should be more widely planted as it has one of the most interesting barks of any tree. The bark exfoliates in irregular, rounded patterns in shades of brown, green and gray. The dubious practice of removing lower limbs which spoils the effect of many conifers, may be justified for this species with so much interest aside from its needles.



At the southeast corner of the lilac garden notice the handsomely rugged silhouette and roughened, dark gray bark of the Kentucky coffee tree which has recommendations beyond its distinctive winter character. It leafs out rather late in the season, an advantage in our climate with our not uncommon late spring snows. American settlers roasted and ground the seeds into a coffee substitute, hence the tree's common name. The large seed pods are produced on female trees and, because of this litter problem, male trees may be preferred.

Paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*, has an incomparable peeling bark which is quite striking, even on young trees. Cinnamon or dark reddish brown in color, the bark is so ornamental that it is surprising that this gem is so rarely planted. It's rather slow growth rate and rarity in the nursery trade probably account for the lack of popularity. One of our specimens is located in the Rock Alpine Garden in the montane slope, just south of the east entrance. Make a special trip to see this small tree, appreciated by connoisseurs.

In the Japanese garden are two specimens of Chinese elm or *Ulmus parvifolia*. They should not be confused with the locally common Siberian elm, *U. pumila*. The Chinese elm, also known as lacebark elm, is more commonly grown south of the region and is still uncommon here. The bark is unusually marked and difficult to describe. Various shades of gray, brown, green and orange play in a mottled pattern with exfoliation occurring in isolated patches. Two young trees are located just outside the east fence of the wisteria arbor. Unfortunately, DBG lost its largest Chinese elm specimen in the Botanic Gardens House garden when the heavy snows of last November irreparably broke its major limbs, necessitating its removal. This very ornamental elm is resistant, but not immune, to Dutch elm disease.



Winter offers us the opportunity to appreciate some frequently overlooked characteristics of trees and shrubs. A winter walk through the gardens will confirm that nature is as generous with interesting twigs, bark and form as she is with foliage and flowers.

—Ken Slump is special projects horticulturist at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Western  
hackberry  
Weeping birch  
American  
hornbeam

### Useful Phone Numbers at Denver Botanic Gardens:

Administration  
331-4000

DBG FAX  
331-4013

Chatfield  
Arboretum  
973-3705

Chatfield FAX  
331-4013

Community  
Outreach  
370-8098

Development/  
Memorials  
370-8030

Dr. Green  
370-8068

Education  
370-8020  
or 370-8019

Gift Shop  
331-4009

Greenhouses  
370-8036

Horticultural  
Therapist  
370-8040

Human  
Resources  
370-8000

Library  
370-8014

Membership  
370-8029

Operations  
370-8011

Grounds  
370-8035

Room  
Reservation  
370-8012

Security  
370-8017

Special Events  
370-8015

TDD  
370-8032



## After Poinsettias: Other Colorful Spurges



Far removed from last month's poinsettias, so familiar during the holidays, is another group of plants from the interesting euphorbia family, which in their own way are just as exotic. Also, they exhibit a tremendous range in size and beauty, especially in their leaves. The next time you visit Boettcher Memorial Conservatory this winter, watch for them.

Acalyphas have many common names such as copper-leaf, match-me-if-you-can, Joseph's coat and even beefsteak (you need some inspiration on this one!), but they all show colorful, often striking, mottled foliage. Perhaps they are as colorful as the Pacific islands where they originated, yet to some people they are but poor cousins, not only to the poinsettias, but to the brighter-foliaged, better known crotons. All are in the same family, *Euphorbiaceae*.

During the winter season there is a fairly wide selection of acalyphas in the conservatory ranging from light green and yellow to brilliant red and pink shades. Perhaps no other group of plants exhibits such coloration—it's almost as if someone went loose with a paint pot, overlapping the hues in some instances, yet in other varieties leaving well-delineated colored margins on their green leaves. Their leaves may be as wide as 10 inches, as in *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'Macrophylla', to barely 1/2 inch wide by 7 or 8 inches long in *A. wilkesiana* 'Heterophylla'. In addition, some varieties twist their leaves into balls and almost defy measurement.

Most striking now in the conservatory is the variety 'Kona Coast' (just as you turn left onto the south path) which has leaves of sunburst yellow and overlapping various shades of green. (It sounds a real mix, but generalizations about colors in acalypha foliage is difficult, to say the least.) This one grows rapidly to 6 or 8 feet

and, like most in this group, pruning should be done in a vicious manner to get rapid renewal. As one nurseryman said, "just trim them back ruthlessly, when they get too tall or leggy, and watch the flush of exotic hot colors emerge." Right next to this plant is *A. wilkesiana obovata*, or 'Fire Dragon', and an old reliable plant often called heart-leaved copper-leaf. Its deep maroon leaves are often notched at the tip. This is a large plant, to 12 feet, and often requires a heavy pruning.

Near the northwest corner of the conservatory is an old, but still highly favored, variety: 'Macafeeana' produces smaller leaves with red, pink, gold and green markings—illustrating random coloring to the nth degree. No wonder they are called match-me-if-you-can.

Down on the south path, near the macadamia nut tree, there are more acalypha selections that at first appear almost unrelated. *A. wilkesiana godseffiana* 'Ceylon Green' has bright green foliage with white edging that contorts itself into all sorts of shapes. In complete contrast, a few feet away to the east, is a bush of *A. godseffiana* 'Heterophylla' with extremely narrow leaves that exhibits the same colors as 'Macafeeana' but, because of its pendulous habit, it appears to be almost weeping. A common name used for it is lance-leaved copper-leaf—how confusing.

Acalyphas are valuable foliage plants to brighten up our winters indoors, yet their full potential is still being explored. When you see them in the conservatory, think what you can do with them in the summer. Perhaps as flashy patio plants? in colorful schemes of annuals? in sunken pots in perennial borders to hide the spring bulbs that have finished?

—Andrew Pierce is senior horticulture advisor at Denver Botanic Gardens.

## Plant Societies at DBG 7

A number of botanical and horticultural groups meet regularly at the Gardens. Below are their usual monthly meetings (Not all meet every month; some meet only during the growing season.) If you would like specific information, call the number provided.

**American Hemerocallis Society**, 3rd Sunday, Karen Schultz, 366-9689

**American Iris Society** (spring and fall) David Miller, 277-0358

**American Rock Garden Society**, 3rd Wednesday, Dick/Ann Bartlett, 986-8096

**Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society**, 2nd Tuesday, H. V. Rodman, (H) 431-6777, (W) 278-7590

**Colorado Mycological Society**, 2nd Monday, Marilyn Shaw, 377-1278

**Colorado Native Plant Society**, 4th Wednesday, Bill Jennings, 666-8348

**Colorado Water Garden Society**, 2nd Sunday, Dan Winter, 239-8571

**Denver Rose Society**, 2nd Thursday, Joan Franson, 424-3942

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers**, 1st Saturday, Debbie Griffith, 969-8153

**Ikebana International**, 4th Friday, Margaret Rayl, 850-7461

**Men's Garden Club of Denver**, 4th Thursday, Jim Arduser, 794-5974

**Rocky Mountain African Violet Society**, 3rd Saturday, Janice Sorenson, 220-8799

**Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society**, 1st and 3rd Tuesday Larry Jaekel, 693-2991

**Ultra Violet Club**, 4th Monday, Pam Miller, 978-0151



*Acalypha wilkesiana* 'Ceylon Green'

### Local County Extension Agents

**Adams**  
659-4150

**Arapahoe**  
730-1920

**Boulder**  
776-4865

**Denver**  
640-2716

**Douglas**  
688-3096

**Jefferson**  
277-8980

**Rocky Mountain Poison Control**  
629-1123



# JANUARY

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. Asterisk\* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

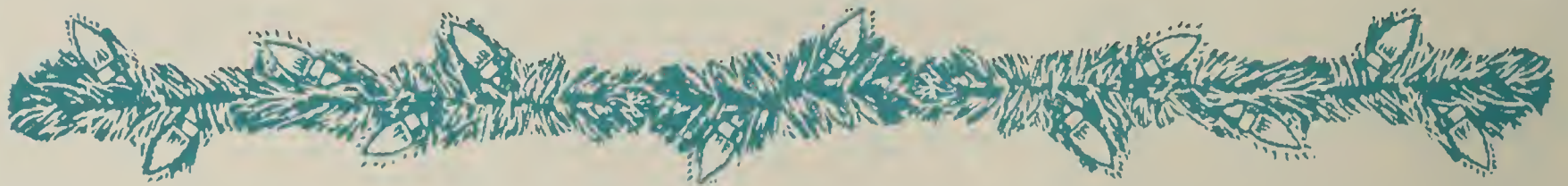
### January

- 1 Closed New Year's Day
- 2-19 Blossoms of Light
- 4 *The Art of Planting* \*
- 8 *The Art of Planting* \*
- Watercolor Painting* \*
- 9 *Beginning Bonsai* \*
- 11 *New Soups With Tuscan Herbs*
- Bent-Willow Furniture Making* \*
- Simple Bird Feeders*
- 12 *Explore Chatfield Arboretum: A History*
- 16 *Naturalist Guide Training Program* \*
- 17 *Drawing from Nature* \*
- 18 *Xeriscaping Your Home: Principles of Design* \*
- Botany for Beginners* \*
- New Tuscan Fresh Pastas with Herb Sauces*
- 20 Free Day (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, Birthday)
- 21 *Tropical Gleaming* \*
- 25 *Winter Botany* \*
- Classic Tuscan Herb Sauces & Dried Pastas*
- 28 *Drawing Plants for Publication* \*

### February

- 1 *Winter Tree Identification* \*
- Pizzas, Focaccia & Grissini*
- 5 *Introduction to Horticultural Therapy* \*
- 6 *Basics of Organic Gardening* \*

*DBG's shofu-en is as beautiful in winter as it is in summer.*



***'Blossoms of Light' bloom through January 19.  
Gardens open evenings until 8.***

### Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206  
303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

**Address correction requested**

### TIME VALUE

**January 1992**



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Plant  
Societies  
at DBG

*Many plant and horticultural societies meet regularly at DBG. For their meeting times or to contact a representative of any group in which you are interested, see the listings on page 7 of this newsletter.*





## Cottage Garden Symposium Sponsored by DBG, Arnold Arboretum

Denver Botanic Gardens and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University will present a two-day cottage garden symposium March 9 and 10.

Cottage gardens are taking on a new look as designers and gardeners craft imaginative contemporary approaches to the traditional country and cottage styles.

In the Western Cottage Garden Workshop Monday, March 9, you will discover the possibilities of creating a beautiful design in the cottage tradition using an international array of drought-tolerant plants selected for their ease of care and conservation of water. Instructors Lauren Springer, co-writer of the "Front Range Gardeners" column in *The Denver Post* and Tom Peace, landscape designer, will address the possibility of creating a cottage garden of heat-tolerant plants. The morning concludes with a panel of Colorado plantspeople—Kelly Grummonds, Eleanor Welshon, Ray Daugherty, Pat Hayward and Panayoti Kelaidis—providing their insights on plant performance in "Beyond Bachelor Buttons".

In the afternoon, learn the art of arranging cottage garden flowers in "Peonies, Poppies and Pizzazz." Five top Colorado floral designers will share their expertise in cutting and arranging flowers from the garden to achieve a "classic cottage" look.

On Tuesday, March 10, the Arnold Arboretum will present five nationally known speakers. Denverite Rob Proctor will describe the historical influences on the cottage style in "Cottage Heirlooms" and will introduce little-known and old-fashioned favorites. In the "New Kitchen Garden" Rosalind Creasy will bring a new approach to gourmet gardening as she recommends varieties of culinary and ornamental vegetables, fruits and herbs.

In "Natural Country Style" Judy Glattstein will explore a range of unusual native plants whose late summer flowers and luxuriant foliage form a tapestry of color to extend the garden season. Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd will distill the essence of the style in "A Cottage Garden Plan" as they develop on stage a plan for a contemporary cottage garden.

You will be sent a special mailing and registration form; however, please call the education department, 370-8020, if you want more information about this exciting program.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

Denver Botanic Gardens  
February 1992  
Number 92-2



*Lantern, snow  
and winter twigs  
create a pretty  
scene of February  
serenity in  
Japanese garden.*

### *Inside:*

*From the  
Executive  
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## From the Executive Director

One of the challenging, ever perplexing, issues executive directors of botanic gardens think about is, "What is a botanic garden?"

Is it the staff, trustees, volunteers and members? Is it the plant collections and displays? Is it our horticultural and conservation research? Is it our programs and library?

Of course, botanic gardens are all of these things, and if you combine them they add up to the fact that botanic gardens are a resource—a resource of people, of ideas, of plants and facilities. Our goal, then, must be to become a resource as widely used as possible.

We are and should be a resource on topics ranging from xeriscaping to water gardening, from composting and community gardening to cut flowers, from environmental issues to horticultural therapy.

In our living displays and in our programs, at York Street, at Chatfield, and in the community, the work of the staff and volunteers is all aimed at being a resource, locally, nationally and internationally.

I am very proud of the many ways we already do this, but would like to have ideas from you, our members, on still more ways we can be a resource to you and the community at large.

The best way to let me know your ideas is to write to me here at Denver Botanic Gardens' Waring House, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206. You can be sure I'll read them and consider your ideas very carefully as we move forward into 1992.

Your views, suggestions or recommendations are most welcome.

—Richard H. Daley

*Kai Kawahara  
prunes pine  
needles in DBG's  
Sho-fu En,  
Garden of Pine  
Wind.*



## Tributes

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Jean Breitenstein**  
Mrs. Jean Thomas Moore

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Samuel (Marjorie) Childs**  
Mrs. Jean Thomas Moore

**In memory of Mrs. Lynn Dorn**  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

**In memory of Arnold B. Gurtler**  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Carl (Ann) Keener**  
Nancy B. Tieken  
Ladies of the Potpourri Workshop

**In memory of George Kelly**  
Ms. Polly Bouck

**In memory of Channing F. Lilly**  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

**In memory of Molly Plattner**  
The Frankel Family  
Jean K. Story

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Peggy Schachter**  
Dr. & Mrs. Jack Stoffel

**In memory of Ms. Jean Sokol**  
Paige & Chase Alt

**In memory of William F. Stevens**  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

## Green Thumb News Number 92—2 February 1992

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Botanic Gardens. For information  
please write the membership depart-  
ment at the above address or call 370-  
8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arbore-  
tum are established and maintained by Denver  
Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City  
and County of Denver and for the general public  
in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recre-  
ation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also  
grateful for funds from the Scientific and Cultural  
Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the  
Gardens to expand services and enhance the  
quality of programs and exhibits.





## Plant Sale Cochairmen Plan Best Ever, Need 200 Volunteers

Michael Ebbs and Debbie Davis, chairman and cochairman of the 1992 Plant and Used Book Sale, have big plans for the May 8 and 9 event. Although the sale is still three months away, they have been working with committee and staff members through the winter to make this annual fundraiser even more successful than last year's record-breaker.

In particular, they hope to increase the corps of volunteer workers to over 800, an increase of 200 over previous years. With the additional help, Ebbs and Davis hope to improve customer service at the sale.

Both chairmen are, themselves, enthusiastic Denver Botanic Gardens volunteers. Ebbs, a technical services manager for Columbine Systems, Inc., is an outdoor guide at the Gardens and has volunteered for the annual sale for three years. He was last year's cochairman. Davis, a member of the Garden Club of Denver, has served on the preview party committee and as division chairman for customer service. She will be next year's Plant and Used Book Sale chairman.

The new cochairs say that several of the sale divisions will expand this year. Shoppers can look forward to a bigger selection of herbs, exotic vegetables and dryland plants, among others. They feel the need is especially critical for more information hosts, sales and checkout assistance and cashiers.

Volunteers are needed for all activities of the sale, with all sorts of experience and any level of skill. Several orientation and training sessions are planned for volunteers before the sale. If you would like to help make this fund-raiser the best ever for the Gardens, call Ken and Betty Lou Roberts to offer your services: 795-1126.

## Employee of the Month

Kai Kawahara is the December employee of the month. Kai has been with Denver Botanic Gardens since 1980. His dedication, craftsmanship and skill have honed the collection of "character pines" in the DBG Japanese garden, *Sho-fu En*, to unrivaled quality.

Kai is the bonsai master for the Rocky Mountain region and is a major force in the local bonsai society. He has created, nurtured and trained more than 300 bonsai at his home.

Congratulations, Kai!



Over 300 children shared their artistic impressions during "Paint the Rain Forest", November 9.

## DBG Shares Membership Lists

Occasionally Denver Botanic Gardens finds it valuable to exchange names from its membership list with other cultural and environmental organizations. Permission is given to use our members' names and addresses for mailing only once; in return, the Gardens gains access to the names and addresses of members of other institutions. These are prospective new supporters for DBG.

If you prefer that your name not be included in these exchanges we will be happy to honor your wishes. Please send a note—including your DBG membership number—to the membership coordinator here at the Gardens, and we will make the necessary notation in your record to keep your name from being shared in future exchanges.

## Family Storytelling Among the Plants

Magical moments will blossom when five professional storytellers weave their tales among the plants of Denver Botanic Gardens.

"Traveler's Tree Tales" will provide nature storytelling for children and their parents from 2 to 3 p.m. five Sunday afternoons: February 23, March 8, April 12, May 17 and June 14. The first three sessions are scheduled in John C. Mitchell II Hall at 1005 York Street; the May session is at Chatfield Arboretum and the last session is at John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Members received information about this family event in a special January mailing. If you did not, call 370-8020 to request a copy of the schedule.

This collection of family storytelling hours is supported by funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

## Louise Connor Appointed DBG Development Officer

Richard H. Daley, executive director of Denver Botanic Gardens, announced the appointment of Louise Bailey Connor as director of membership and development at the Gardens, effective Jan. 13.

Ms. Connor formerly was a consultant to the Denver Art Museum and KCFR-FM. Prior to her work as a consultant, Ms. Connor was director of development at KCFR for seven years, a period of very rapid growth for the station.

Ms. Connor has an extensive background in fundraising, management, long-range planning, board development and community affairs. At Denver Botanic Gardens she will be responsible for membership development and fund-raising activities.

"I'm very pleased that Louise has joined our DBG team, and I hope all of our members and supporters will join me in welcoming her," Daley said.



Louise Connor

## Bad Weather? Call Class Update Line

The DBG education department has initiated a class advisory telephone recording to update our members on the status of their classes in case of bad weather. Information on classes at York Street and Chatfield Arboretum will be posted on this line, 370-8044. If your class is postponed due to weather or dangerous road conditions, every effort will be made to reschedule it.





Above, the silvery leaves of an *Echium* in Boettcher Memorial Conservatory.

Below right, the fruit of jojoba.

## DBG Offers Summer Internships in Applied Horticulture

College and university students interested in gaining hands-on experience in horticulture are encouraged to apply for a Denver Botanic Gardens summer internship, which begins June 8. A taxable stipend of \$2,000 will be paid to each intern for the ten-week term.

Designed to provide a practical learning experience for students of botany, biology, horticulture, landscape design and related fields, the internship provides an opportunity to work with the Gardens' professional staff and the volunteers involved in the daily care of the display gardens. This practical experience complements their regular classroom instruction.

Students will gain experience in planting, watering, pruning and weeding on the grounds; seeding, transplanting and propagation in the greenhouses; assisting with tropical and subtropical plant displays; and attending weekly lectures and field trips.

To qualify for a 1992 Summer Internship in Applied Horticulture applicants must have completed their sophomore year of college with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and currently must be enrolled as either an undergraduate or a graduate student. Several introductory courses in the plant sciences are prerequisites. Applications are due March 1; notification of appointment will be mailed to students by March 15. Application forms and additional information can be obtained from Paula Ogilvie, DBG adult education specialist, 370-8041.

## In Boettcher Memorial Conservatory: A Corner with Beautiful, Useful Dryland Plants

When you next visit Boettcher Memorial Conservatory you may wish to linger for a closer look in the southwest corner, where there is a wide selection of tropical plants that are tolerant of hot, dryland conditions.

This area of the conservatory has a different microclimate than the rest of the building. It is subjected to the hot south sun and, even more critical, the extreme heat of the afternoon sun from the west. This corner is also at a higher elevation than the rest of the "forest floor," lower down the conservatory, and has much lower humidity.

Here you will see some older established plants such as *lignum-vitae*, *Guaiacum officinale*, a small tree that produces one of the hardest woods known. Nearby is *Dasyllirion longissimum*, a large, spiky succulent from Texas. Around the periphery are older specimens of cacti: *Cereus peruvianus*, *Opuntia brasiliensis* and *Pereskia saccharosa*, a cactus that has true leaves. This spiny individual is in the planter box by the door to Marnie's Pavilion. It sports masses of pink flowers, not unlike single roses, in the spring.

There has been a number of new introductions to this area. The genus *Echium* is an eye-catching group of plants originating in Mediterranean countries and the Canary Islands. They are often biennial. Most prominent is *E. wildpretii*, with large rosettes of soft green, hairy foliage. We look forward to its blooming to see if it has red flowers instead of blue, the color of most species of the genus. *E. fastuosum* is more sprawling, and is a shrub with lighter green leaves. It blooms with spikes of deep blue flowers.

The very interesting jojoba, *Simmondsia chinensis*, is a small bush with pairs of opposite, thick leaves. It produces small greenish black fruits from which an oil is extracted for use in cosmetics and for industrial lubricants. The oil is similar to sperm whale oil. Jojoba comes from the warmer, drier parts of the Southwest, where it is now

being cultivated as a dryland crop. Behind this plant are two small trees of *Euphorbia caracasana* 'Sanguineum', with red-tinged leaves. They are deciduous, depending on the moisture they receive. These plants have an irritating milky sap typical of the family.

Lower down is a selection of *Proteaceae*, a plant family common principally to the higher elevations of South Africa, where precipitation is often even less than that of Colorado. We have representatives of the genera *Protea* and *Leucodendron*. Similar in foliage to some of this family is *Callistemon citrinus*, a small tree with scarlet "bottle brush" flower stems. It comes from Australia. Also from down under is the purple New Zealand flax, *Phormium tenax* 'Purpureum'. Various materials are made of its fibrous leaves; in New Zealand it is often seen drying on fences. Remarkably, this plant is closely related to our well-known daylilies.

One of the intriguing plants in the center of this corner area is a small shrub of *Acacia cornigera* with "thorns" much larger than the leaflets. No wonder it is called bullhorn acacia. It comes from dune areas of Central America. Its young spines are filled with a sweet, pulpy substance which is eaten and cleaned out by ants, who then use the horns as homes.

Nearby, the contrasting foliage of the Texas silverleaf, of *Breynia disticha* and of the variegated *Duranta repens* create an attractive picture. Above all of this climbs the beautiful *Ipomoea horsfalliae* 'Lady Briggs', with clusters of bright magenta blossoms. In the spring and summer *Clitoria ternatea*, a vine from India, displays one of the truest blues you will ever see in a flower.

Such an interesting corner is well worth stopping by, just to consider the many uses of these dryland plants. But you will also be struck by their beauty.

—by Andrew Pierce, plant propagator at Denver Botanic Gardens.




### Class Locations.

Classrooms A, B and C are at 1005 York Street, Denver.

The DBG Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is at 2320 East 11th Avenue, Denver.

Chatfield Arboretum is at 9201 South Carr Street, Littleton (south on Wadsworth Boulevard 0.3 mile past C-470, west onto Deer Creek Canyon Road).





# *Crested Butte Wildflower Festival*

## *June 9-12, 1992*

**Join your fellow Denver Botanic Gardens members as we visit the Victorian town of Crested Butte, located in the majestic Elk Mountains. Designated the Wildflower Capital of Colorado in 1989, the town offers a festival celebrating unequalled displays of flowers and a myriad of educational opportunities and outdoor activities.**

### **Thursday, July 9**

9 a.m. the motorcoach departs the Denver Botanic Gardens parking lot for the scenic drive to Crested Butte. Arrive at the luxurious Grande Butte Hotel about 3:30 p.m., where each room has its own balcony, wet bar, refrigerator and whirlpool tub. At 6 p.m. the group will gather for a no-host cocktail hour, followed by a special welcome dinner and a wildflower program with slide show. L D

### **Friday, July 10**


Breakfast on your own in the hotel restaurant, then 8:30 a.m. departure for a glorious Jeep trip past the ghost town of Gothic to Schofield Pass to view subalpine and alpine wildflowers and wildlife. Picnic lunch will be served next to a waterfall. Andrew Pierce, Angela Overy and a local guide will share their knowledge of the wildflowers. Note that some elevations may be over 11,500 feet. Return to the hotel at 2:30. The remainder of the day is free to attend lectures and workshops or to explore the multitude of shops, galleries and restaurants in this charming mining town. L D

### **Saturday, July 11**

The entire day is available for each person to sign up for classes, workshops or tours of your choice. A schedule will be supplied to each participant as soon as they are available enabling our group to pre-register. Last year's offerings included workshops on photography, art, wildflower identification and wildflower landscaping. Also, a variety of garden and mountain bike tours and horseback riding are available. At 5:30 p.m. we will be treated to a special evening at the Mt. Crested Butte home of Denver Botanic Gardens trustee, Marion Woods. A wildflower identification contest (we will all be experts by that time) and an outdoor barbeque dinner will be highlights. L D

### **Sunday, July 12**

Breakfast on your own. Morning at leisure to participate in more classes or to enjoy more of this lovely area. 11:45 departure by motorcoach for our return trip to Denver. A picnic lunch will be enjoyed in a scenic spot en route. Return to DBG parking lot by 6 p.m.



Cost: \$325 per person based on double occupancy. Includes all meals and special events as indicated, motorcoach and Jeep transportation, baggage handling, tips, wine and beer on Saturday evening, hotel and taxes and a special wildflower booklet. A voluntary \$25 donation to DBG is also included. The tour will be fully escorted throughout by Barbara Baldwin, Angela Overy and Andrew Pierce. \$100 per person is required to secure space, which will be confirmed in the order in which checks are received. Final payment is due by May 8, 1992. Payments are fully refundable, less unrecoverable costs, if cancellation is received 15 or more days prior to departure. 14 days or less prior to departure, cancellations will result in a \$200 penalty, unless a replacement is found. The single room occupancy supplement is \$110.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, July 9-12, 1992.

A deposit check for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$100 per person) is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member I.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Single room: ☐ yes ☐ no

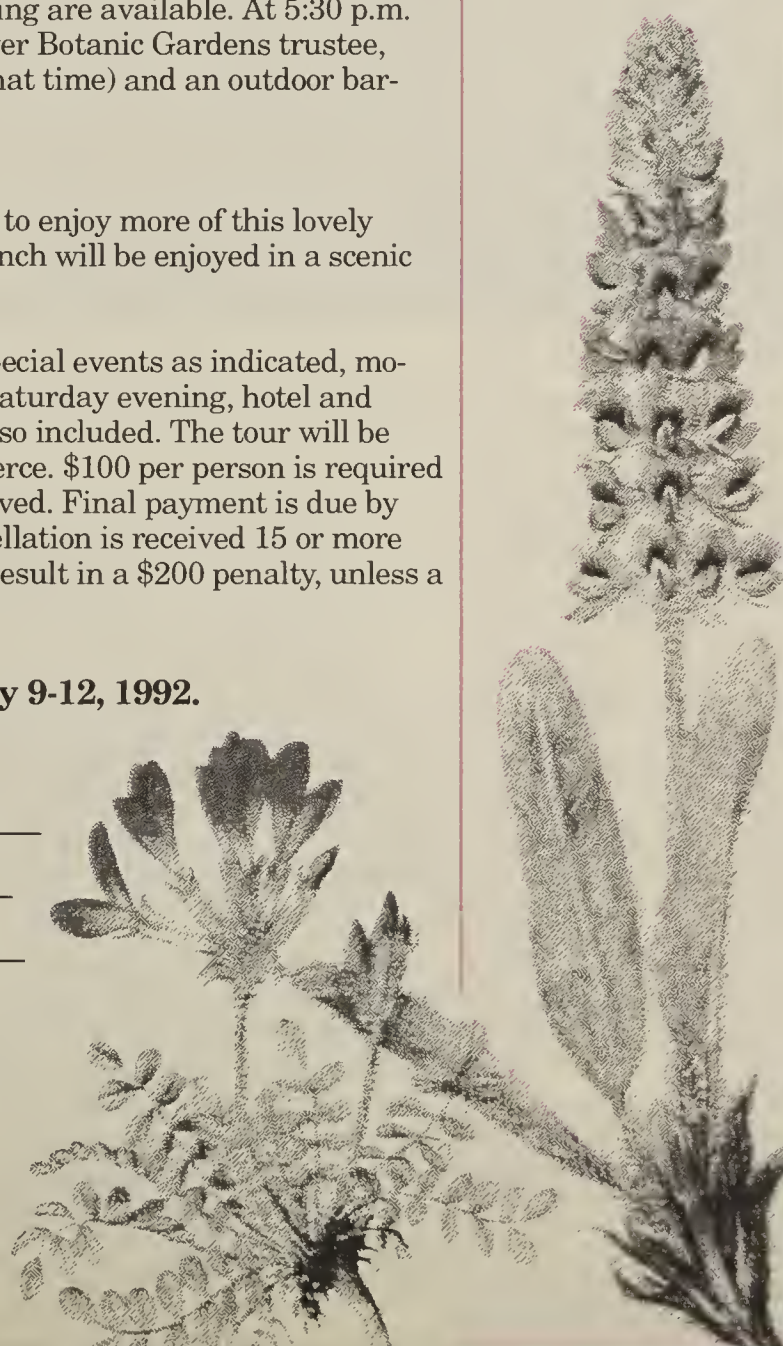
Cost of tour is \$325 based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$110.

Final payment is due May 8, 1992.

Please make check payable to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Mail to Tours Departmentl • 909 York Street • Denver, Colorado 80206

Any questions? Call Barbara Baldwin, 778-7292.





In response to interest from many of the Gardens' newer members the Green Thumb News will print a series of occasional articles of a historical nature. Though "only" 41 years old, Denver Botanic Gardens has a fascinating past, associated with many illustrious civic, botanical and horticultural leaders. The first of these articles looks at current features at the Gardens that commemorate three of its founders. More information is available in *From Cemetery to Conservatory, an early history of the Gardens by Louisa Ward Arps (out of print).*—Ed.



Above, trustees Mrs. James J. Waring and Mrs. Frank McLister admire plants in the conservatory (photo, circa 1962-64).

Right, early DBG supporter Mrs. Ed (Marnie) Honnen (here, in undated file photo) was the inspiration for DBG's orchid and bromeliad display house.

Even before the first meeting of the Botanical Gardens Foundation of Denver, Inc., on Feb. 27, 1951, many individuals contributed countless hours of effort to bring it into being. Since that first meeting the support has continued, to bring it to its current level of excellence.

As we look toward an exciting future of further development and refinement, it is fitting to remember those who nurtured the dream of the beautiful gardens and facilities we enjoy today. Some of them bear direct tribute the early champions of Denver Botanic Gardens.

One of the original founders was Margaret E. (Marnie) Honnen. A tireless contributor and lover of flowers, she served as an active trustee from 1958 to 1974. Many generous gifts in her memory resulted in the construction in 1981 of the orchid and bromeliad display greenhouse known as Marnie's Pavilion.

For more than a decade it has housed changing displays of these two unusual plant families, offering visitors a close-up view of their fascinating diversity. In December Marnie's Pavilion featured an interesting display of poinsettias in a kaleidoscope of unusual colors and patterns.

A fitting tribute to another founder and trustee, who oversaw much of our growth and development, is Anna's Overview, the observation mound southwest of the amphitheater.

Anna R. Garrey tirelessly promoted the concept of a botanic garden for Denver throughout most of the first half of this century. She was influential in organizing those who would help to see her dream come true. She is credited with personally travelling to Cheyenne to coax Dr. A. C. Hildreth to retire from his long career as director of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Experiment Station in Cheyenne to become the first director of Denver Botanic Gardens.

In 1974 Mrs. Garrey walked up the steps of Anna's Overview to survey the developing gardens on her 90th birthday. The Overview is an appropriate honor to this woman, who wrote, "The untiring labors of the many, now long gone, who worked so ceaselessly for a project in a future they could not share—these remain the mute cornerstones of our botanic garden." (Anna R. Garrey, in a tribute to S. R. DeBoer, *The Green Thumb* magazine, vol. 29, no. 5, 1972.)

Another founder and enthusiastic contributor to the Gardens is Ruth Porter Waring. Evidence of her dedication and generosity abounds.

In 1959 she gave Botanic Gardens House to the foundation in memory of her father Henry M. Porter. The house stood adjacent to a former cemetery that would become Denver Botanic Gardens. The house was the hub of early DBG activities prior to the construction of the conservatory, education building and the present gardens. It housed the library and herbarium before the education building was built and is still used for staff offices and meeting rooms.

In the early years at the York Street site, children's gardening played a prominent role. Hundreds of children participated in hands-on programs designed to foster their interest and love of the natural world.

In 1960 Mrs. Waring donated funds to build a shelter in the area of the

children's garden plots. "The only thanks I want is an enthusiastic response from the children to our program—and this I know we shall have," said Mrs. Waring at the dedication of the structure Dec. 7, 1960.

Many children benefitted from her generosity. The shelter still stands, north of the main parking lot, in an area now used for community gardens.

Following the construction of most of the current display gardens, many members and friends of the Gardens desired to create a garden that would pay tribute to the native flora of the Great Plains and to those pioneers who settled the West.

A tranquil garden featuring the grass communities and the forbs that accompany them was realized in 1987 with the dedication of the Laura Smith Porter Plains Garden. Mrs. Waring funded the construction of the garden in memory of her mother, who came to Colorado like other pioneers, in a covered wagon. (She once related spending her early childhood, before the turn of the century, on her family "farm" at the corner of Sherman Street and Colfax Avenue. —Ed.) Nearly five years after its planting, the garden is a peaceful delight as the breezes of the seasons whisper through the grasses and native plains wildflowers.

Mrs. Waring's generosity has been pivotal to the successful development of Denver Botanic Gardens. Two tributes to her can be found at 1005 York



Street. The circular black iron table in the Home Demonstration Garden was dedicated by the Garden Club of Denver in honor of Mrs. Waring's 100th birthday in July 1989.

And a cultivar of dwarf Russian almond, *Prunus tenella*, originally from the Cheyenne Experiment Station, was given the designation 'Ruth's

100th' in her honor the same year. *Prunus tenella* 'Ruth's 100th' can be found growing about midway along the path atop the berm in the Wingsong Garden. It is a sturdy shrub which is adorned with hundreds of small pink flowers in early spring.

Mrs. Waring, now 102, is a life trustee and continues to be an inspiration to Denver Botanic Gardens.

—by Ken Slump, horticulturist in the DBG plant collections department who works on special projects.



## The Book of Garden Design

By John Brookes, Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, 1991 \$40.00 SB473B723

My relationship with this book began with love at first sight. As do other relationships based on visual delight, it soon foundered, as I began encountering in the book enough anomalies to lead me to doubt my initial infatuation.

Fortunately, the book is so beautiful I couldn't bring myself to part company, and finally (page 320!) I understood. The book is not what I had thought.

Readers who begin at the back of the book will realize this first. In the final chapter, "Further Working Information," Brookes gives instruction on advanced landscape drawing, discusses the intricacies of working with contractors and advises novice professionals how to choose and deal with their clients. Here he is not writing for someone not seriously interested in garden design.

Ultimately, it is the professional intent of this book that makes it most valuable, also, to a general, non-

Since Brookes is writing, primarily, for new or prospective professionals, however, the rest of us must approach it with extra care. The chapter on "Plant Selection" is especially dangerous. Brookes is a world-class designer; the design principles and garden philosophy in this book are valid the world over. It is understandable that Brookes has chosen illustrative plants and gardens from a correspondingly unlimited range. The plants, therefore, are examples, not recommendations.

Should you read this book? Emphatically, yes—even if your primary interest is perusing beautiful gardens, not designing them. You should buy a copy for repeated reference—it is, after all, a book to be used—if you are a creator of landscapes, your own or for others. Few of us can afford to acquire Brookes' services, were we inclined to turn our gardens over to someone else. You certainly should not pass up the valuable opportunity to consult with him, step by step, in *The Book of Garden Design*.

—by Larry Latta

### Your Used Books Turn into New Ones For DBG Library

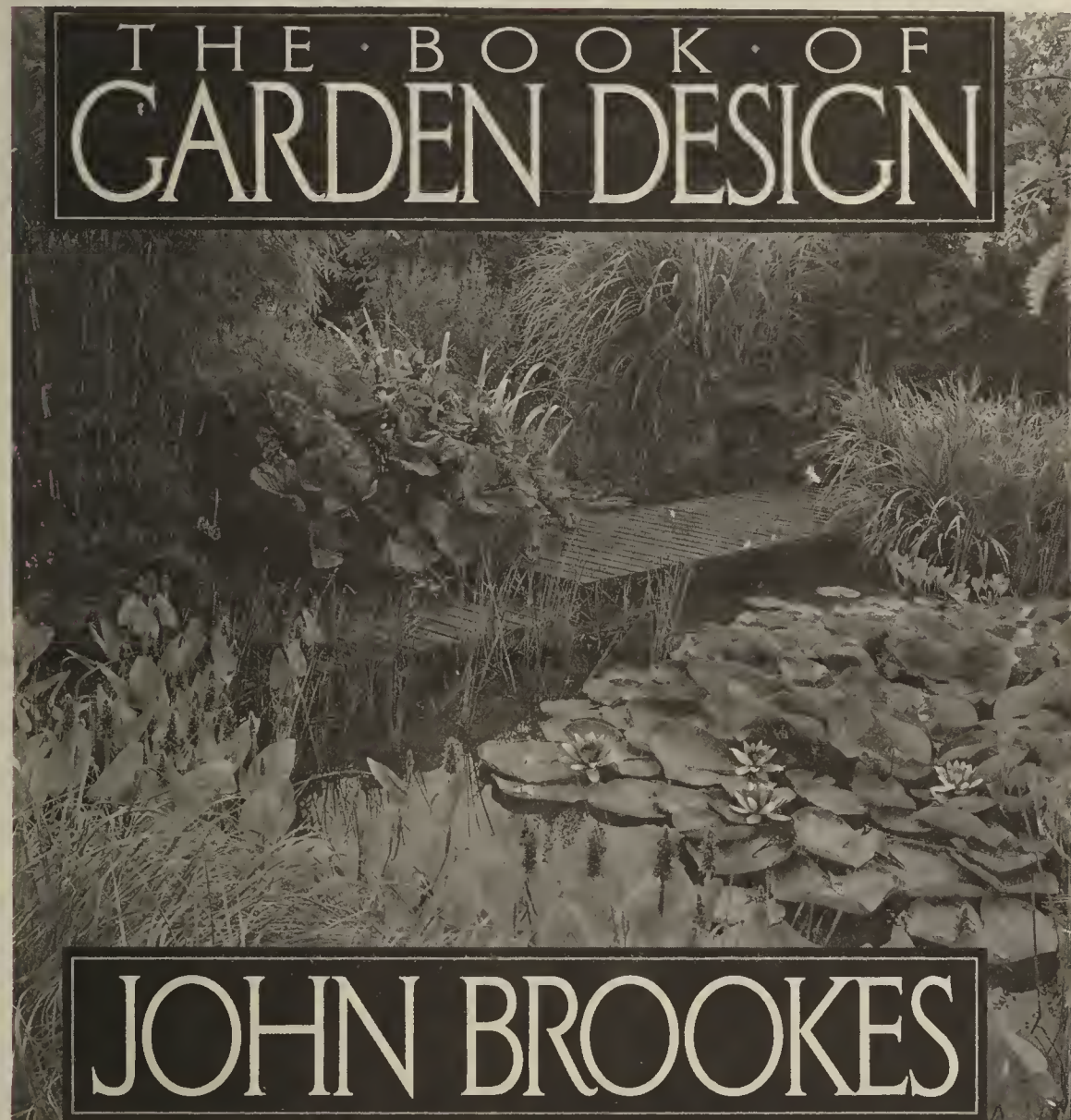
Where did the 20,000 volumes in DBG's Helen Fowler Library come from? There are two sources: gifts of either books or money from generous supporters, and proceeds from the sale of used books at the Gardens' annual Plant and Used Book Sale. No operating funds are used for the purchase of new books.

John and Linda Verbiscar, cochairmen of the used book division of this sale, note that, although used books are donated the year 'round, now is an especially critical time. The sale, May 8 and 9 this year, is only three months away.

In order for the volunteers to get donated items sorted, stacked and priced by sale time, they are needed soon. In all, the Verbiscars' team expects to process over 20,000 pieces—books, magazines, videotapes, postage stamps, music records and sheet music.

If you have been contemplating spring cleaning and have books you no longer need for your permanent library, think about getting to the project early. Please earmark the books and other such items for the Gardens' sale. All subjects are needed.

Please help the volunteers turn your old books into new ones for DBG's library.



Don't be deceived by its magnificent photography, attractive design, instructive montages and abundance of drawings. (Obviously, it was art-directed by some of the best designers in the business.) Although it appears, at first thumb-through, to be a lavishly produced how-to for amateurs and homeowners, and although its "coffee table" size seems to support that impression, it is not.

What finally became clear is that Brooks has written a textbook, to teach professional garden designers.

professional gardening readership. How better to learn, than by looking over the shoulder of a pro?

Brookes, of course, is a pro among pros. Although I have never seen, first hand, a Brookes landscape, the English designer's elevated reputation rests on a large body of work on both sides of the Atlantic. His writing reflects not only a perceptive mind but a depth of knowledge that accrues from a long, successful career. It also mirrors the wit, erudition and enthusiasm that marks Brookes as a great teacher and lecturer.

This is a book to study. The photographs of plants, materials and gardens, though sumptuous, have been chosen carefully to illuminate principles of design. Not a one has been included just because it is pretty. As gorgeous as the book is, it is not a collection of baubles.

LIBRARY LISTS



# FEBRUARY

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. Asterisk\* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For course information see the quarterly *Education Programs* catalogue, or call 370-8020.

### February

- 1 *Winter Tree Identification \**  
*Pizzas, Focaccia & Grissini*
- 5 *Introduction to Horticultural Therapy \**
- 6 *Basics of Organic Gardening \**  
*Intermediate Bonsai: A Maple Grove \**
- 8 *The ABC's of Pruning*  
*Animal Tracks*  
*Basic Beekeeping \**
- 9 *Winter Nature Walk at Chatfield Arboretum*
- 13 *Mainly for Men: Making a Nosegay*
- 15 *Classic Tuscan First Courses*  
*Illustrating A Botanical Plate \**  
*Planning Your Home Landscape: Do It Yourself\**
- 20 *The ABC's of Pruning*
- 22 *Classic Tuscan Antipasti*  
*Identification of Colorado Conifers \**
- 23 *Traveler's Tree Tales*
- 25 *Perennial Pleasures \**
- 26 *Watercolor Painting \**
- 29 *Winter Botany*

Right, Kristina Womboldt is one of 40 children who learned to make wreathes of herbs, dried plants and chiles at a December workshop for families and "latch-key children" organized by the DBG community outreach staff for the South West Improvement Council. DBG horticultural therapy and community gardens programs staff members assisted.



## You can help the Gardens bloom— Volunteer for 1992 Plant and Used Book Sale.

### Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206  
303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

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U.S. Postage  
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Denver, CO

### Plant Societies at DBG

Many plant and horticultural societies meet regularly at DBG. For their meeting times or to contact a representative of any group in which you are interested, see the listings on page 7 of the January Green Thumb News.

Address correction requested

### TIME VALUE

February 1992







# NEWS

**Denver Botanic Gardens**  
**March 1992**  
**Number 92-3**

## *The Complete Cottage Garden*

The Western Cottage Garden  
Monday, March 9

The Complete Cottage Garden  
Tuesday, March 10

John C. Mitchell II Hall  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
For more information call 370-8020.

## From the Plant & Used Book Sale Chairman:

The 1992 Plant and Used Book Sale has some exciting changes in store.

First, we need 200 more volunteers to staff the event, primarily in customer service and cashiering. This is your opportunity to assist in the biggest fund raising event of the year for DBG. If you're interested, please call Betty Lou Roberts, chairman of the sale volunteers, 795-1126, or Linda Brancato, DBG special events coordinator, 370-8015.

An outdoor, European style cafe will be erected in the amphitheater. It will serve tasty morsels that you can enjoy at tables in the tent or on the grassy slopes of the amphitheater.

We are also making many changes to the signage to make finding things easier. This includes directional signs, as well as individual plant labels.

You will find improvements in the different divisions as well. Many plant divisions will be expanded this year, especially the "xeriscape" plants. And you will want to plan extra time to see all the new items offered by the Gift Shop.

Mark your calendar now for the 1992 Plant and Used Book Sale: Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9.

—Michael Ebbs

## Gardens Membership Reaches 10,000

Denver Botanic Gardens reached an important milestone early in the new year as it gained the Littleton family of Joseph and Jean Esquibel as its 10,000th member.

The Esquibels join the Gardens during a period of successful expansion, which has seen membership grow by more than 26 percent during the last 12 months.

The Esquibels, who live near the Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum, have two children. Both are in the Jefferson County school system. Adelina, 11, attends Leawood Elementary, where she is starting an environment club. Son Mark, 17, attends Columbine High School where he is a musician in the all-county jazz and concert bands.

Mr. and Mrs. Esquibel and their daughter, Adelina, were guests at a ceremony at the Gardens Tuesday evening, Jan. 21.

DBG Executive Director Richard H. Daley presented the family with several mementos from the Gardens, including a gift certificate from the Gardens' gift shop, free classes offered by the education department and a framed poster commemorating the Gardens' 40th anniversary in 1991.

The Esquibels also received a large bouquet of flowers from Ed Moore Florist and lunch for four at Cherry Creek's newest restaurant, Thoa's 158.

After the presentation, the family was given a private tour of the Gardens' tropical conservatory.



Joseph, Adelina and Jean Esquibel are welcomed by Richard H. Daley, right.

## Inside:

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Nothing says  
"tropical" like  
bananas, and  
nothing says  
"winter relief"  
like a stroll  
through DBG's  
Boettcher  
Memorial  
Conservatory.

## From the Executive Director

In January we celebrated the addition of the 10,000th member to Denver Botanic Gardens. The Joseph Esquibel family of Littleton was honored at a brief ceremony in the Lobby Court.

With membership growing so rapidly, we are reviewing all the ways we communicate with our members so you can have the information you want and need.

The *Green Thumb News* is our primary way of keeping you informed. We need your ideas on what you like, what you don't like and what you would like to see added or changed in this newsletter.

In this issue we invite your ideas and suggestions on the *Green Thumb News*. A simple questionnaire is on page 7. Please send us your comments so we can include your thoughts in our evaluation as we look for ways to improve our service.

I am very proud of celebrating the addition of our 10,000th member. There are about 300 botanic gardens and arboreta in the United States. A mere handful have memberships of our size, and this truly is a wonderful endorsement of what we do. Our goal is to continue to find new and better ways to serve you.

—Richard H. Daley

## Oops!

In the February *GTN* we neglected to credit long-time DBG volunteer author-editor Bernice E. "Pete" Petersen as a major contributor to the booklet *From Cemetery to Conservatory*. The booklet actually consists of two parts: "A History of the Land Around Denver Botanic Gardens," by Louisa Ward Arps, and "A Jubilee History of Denver Botanic Gardens, 1951-1976," written by Mrs. Petersen. To neglect her contribution, a voluntary labor of love, was an embarrassing oversight.

In the same issue an incorrect headline belied the correct date of the upcoming Crested Butte wildflower trip. The body text is correct: The trip is in July.

## May Sale Needs Adding Machines

You can help speed up the check-out lanes at the Plant and Used Book Sale if you donate or loan the Gardens an adding machine for the cashiers.

Each year some of the old machines—themselves donated relics—fall to the wayside, so the Gardens' supply has dwindled. If you or someone you know has a machine to spare for a couple of days call 370-8015. Your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

## Employee of the Month

"No Problem." Rob Schmunk is January employee of the month because he lived up to that confident promise, when he took on the task of putting up the "Blossoms" lights—in addition to his regular duties.

In November it became evident that, in order to install the lights in time for the holiday display, the Gardens would have to increase the manpower dedicated to the project. Rob took it on, supervising and working with the installation team. Because of his enthusiasm and leadership, all lights were up, tested and ready to glow on time.

Congratulations, Rob, and thanks.

## Photographers: We Want to See Your Pics

If you are an accomplished photographer of the Gardens or have taken some outstanding wildflower photos, your work may be useful.

The communications and publications staff is in constant need of publishing-quality photos, both color slides and black and white prints. Flowers, scenes and activities are all in demand for the various Denver Botanic Gardens publications.

If you are interested in donating one-time use of your photographs, please contact Larry Latta, 370-8033.

## Tributes

**In memory of Mr. Jack Butler**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Falkenberg

**In memory of Mr. F. Dexter Cheney**  
Mrs. Harold C. Ingersoll

**In memory of**  
**Mrs. Samuel (Marjorie) Childs**  
Ms. Joanne W. Sinclair

**In memory of Mr. R. Fred Davies**  
Mrs. A. G. Rydstrom

**In memory of Mr. William D. Ford**  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley P. Bader  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Holder  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kerber  
Sears, Joan & Lee Merrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Yarrington  
& family

**In memory of Marian Kistler**  
Ms. Virginia G. Kennedy

**In memory of Mr. David Lawrence**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Y. Marchand

**In memory of James R. Lester**  
Mrs. Mary H. Lester

**In memory of Ms. Helen Rippey**  
Mrs. Charla Gates Cannon

**In memory of Ms. Cleo Weims**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jacques F. Robertson

## Green Thumb News Number 92—3 March 1992

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Edited by Larry Latta, 370-8033  
Deadline for May issue: March 20

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Violets & Other Fantasies' in Mitchell Hall

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council will stage its spring show and sale, "Violets and Other Fantasies," in John C. Mitchell II Hall Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22.

African violets of 10 member societies, from Colorado Springs to Grand Junction, and independent members from as far away as Kansas will be offered for sale or judging.

Hours are 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information call Marilyn Terry, 331-8331 or 239-8344.

## Garden Club Federation Holds Study Course

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs will hold classes at their headquarters, 1556 Emerson Street, and at Denver Botanic Gardens March 10 to 12.

The course will cover basic botany for gardeners, a tour of DBG, soils, plant propagation and plant nutrition. Instructors are from Front Range Community College, DBG and the CSU Extension Service. Classes are open to the public.

For registration fees or other information call 688-6723 or 343-3666.

## Elsewhere, In a Nutshell ...

- Seven conservation groups and government agencies are sponsoring a "Southwestern Rare and Endangered Plant Conference" in Santa Fe, New Mexico, March 30-April 2. Among other topics, the conference will address the Endangered Species Act, rare plant surveys and habitat assessment, population biology and demographic study and rare plant protection strategies. Information: Native Plant Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 1948, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87504.

- The 13th annual conference by the Hydroponic Society of America will be April 9 to 12 in Orlando, Florida. If you are interested in the finer points of growing plants without soil, contact the society: 2819 Crow Canyon Road, Suite 218, San Ramon, California 94583 or (510)743-9605.

- The largest international primula conference since 1928 will be in Portland, Oregon, April 10-12. Sponsored by the American Primrose Society and the Royal Horticultural Society of England, "Primula Worldwide" will feature speakers from Europe, Japan and the United States and will offer study clinics and workshops on primula (primrose) culture. Information: Ann Lunn, Registrar, 6620 N.W. 271st Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon, 97124.

## James Henrich Appointed DBG Horticulture Head

Richard H. Daley, DBG executive director, announced the appointment of James E. Henrich as director of horticulture at the Gardens, effective Feb. 17.

Henrich formerly was horticulture coordinator at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, where he also served as acting director of horticulture. His horticultural background is in departmental management, greenhouse and nursery production and plant propagation.

Henrich has published several botanical papers, chiefly on the iris family, with a special interest in the genus *Sisyrinchium*.

He received his doctoral degree from Saint Louis University and his bachelor's in biology and his master's degree in horticulture from the University of Minnesota.

"Jim joins the staff at a critical juncture for Denver Botanic Gardens' horticultural program," Daley said. "His experience will be essential as we embark upon implementation of the Gardens' long-range plan."



Jim Henrich

## Kidding Around: Saturdays at The Gardens

Saturdays are special days for families at Denver Botanic Gardens. You can pack a picnic and visit the York Street site or Chatfield Arboretum for drop-in programs with make-it-and-take-it projects. Activities are included with admission (no charge to members) and will be held on the second Saturday of the month at the Arboretum and on the fourth Saturday of the month at York Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Questions? Call 370-8019.

### At York Street

#### Nutty Peanut ■ March 28

See how they grow! Celebrate national Peanut Month with crafts and tasty samples. You won't believe what George Washington Carver made from these underground seeds.

#### Terrific Trees ■ April 25

It's Arbor Day. Take yourself on a tree tour and meet the natives and some from afar. Taste them and grow them and make walnut animals and other tree crafts to take home.

#### Clever Containers ■ May 23

Bring something with you to recycle into a flower pot. Anything from an empty cottage cheese container to an old shoe will do—we'll provide the plants.

### At the Arboretum

#### Arbor Day ■ April 11

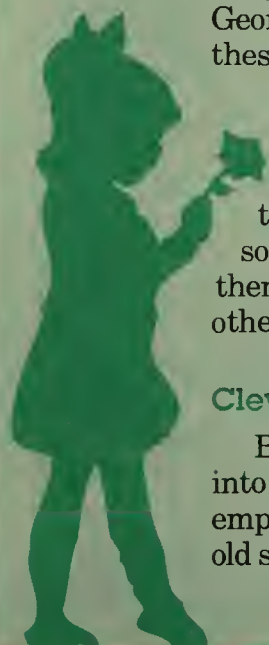
Trade some recyclable trash for a tree seedling. Demonstrations of pioneer crafts, guided tours, hayrides and storytelling are all part of the day's activities. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

#### Birds of Prey ■ May 9

Hawks, eagles and owls visit the Arboretum. Some even live there. Learn how to find them and what they look like from below. Bring a stray dark sock to make an owl puppet.

#### Fly It! ■ June 13

Lift your spirits and watch the wind as you learn how to make a simple kite to fly with your family in the Arboretum's open meadows.







Shrubs in newly planted landscapes may have to be thinned as they mature to avoid over-crowding and unnecessary pruning.

## Pruning Deciduous Shrubs: How & When

*Pruning*, the very word seems to strike fear into the hearts of many gardeners, yet releases a primeval zeal in others. The daunting task of briefly covering the subject is important at this time of year, when the warm periods of late winter and early spring cause some gardeners to focus their pent-up enthusiasm for returning to the garden on their pruning shears.

It seems that "rules" are limited only by the number of horticulturists you consult. Although pruning deciduous shrubs varies, due to the large number of species around and the variety of purposes for which they are grown, some general guidelines may be applied.

Keep in mind that good pruning should not be obvious. Pruning to limit size indicates that the wrong species or cultivar was selected for the site.

New landscapes are often installed with an abundance of shrubbery to provide an immediate effect. For plant health as well as aesthetics, it is desirable to remove some plants as fully planted landscapes mature since

crowded shrubbery tends to be tall and weak, and need frequent pruning

There are several goals which should be remembered when pruning deciduous shrubs. First, remove any dead or diseased branches, as well as those which have been broken by winter snows. This is an excellent time, for example, to eliminate those branches most heavily infested with scale, as can occur on red twig dogwoods, lilacs and some *Cotoneaster* species.

When pruning multi-stemmed shrubs, it is desirable to remove first the larger, older growth, cutting an entire cane off at or below ground level with sharp pruners or loppers. New shoots will later emerge from the base that will have more vigorous flowering and fruiting than the declining, older stems. Many shrubs can be kept young and vigorous with this technique.

This method is not advised on shrubs having the tendency for few basal sprouts such as dwarf winged euonymous or grafted shrubs such as witchhazel and some cultivars of common lilac that are not grown on their own roots. Some occasional thinning and heading back to primary branches will help maintain these shrubs' vigor.

Next remove any growth which is hazardous, crowding or growing in an unwanted direction.

Finally, some light heading back to a lower branch may be desirable: Pruning to another stem or

a healthy looking bud will help prevent stubs and bare areas in the plant. Keep in mind the natural form of the plant and avoid a sheared appearance. For routine pruning it is desirable to remove no more than 20 to 30 percent of the shrub in a year, unless a complete renewal is desired.

Renewal pruning capitalizes on the fact that many shrubs have the ability to restore top growth, even after it has been entirely cut to the ground. This can be advantageous and even desirable on old, very woody shrubs which have been neglected or, worse, mutilated by repeatedly having their younger shoots pruned away. Among the shrubs that respond well to this seemingly drastic approach are privet, snowberries, barberries and willows.

In order to avert the disappointment of pruning away a whole season's blossoms and subsequent fruits, it is important to understand the flowering habits of each species.

Spring-blooming shrubs typically form their flower buds the previous growing season. Late winter or early spring would *not* be a good time to prune such shrubs unless you are willing to sacrifice this spring's display. The best practice is to prune them soon after they flower. Some of these are quince, forsythias lilacs and certain spireas, e.g. *Spiraea x Vanhouttei*.

Summer-flowering shrubs, on the other hand, usually bloom from current season's growth, so pruning in early spring is not only acceptable, it's often recommended. Among this group are the cultivars of shrub althea, summersweet, some spireas and butterfly bush—a shrub that normally dies back or is cut back nearly to the ground each year in this climate.

Before blithely attacking your shrubbery this spring, analyze the plants and your pruning goals. Determine if this is indeed the best time to prune them, whether they truly need pruning at all, whether some should be moved to better locations or perhaps eliminated from your landscape entirely.

In any event, thoughtful pruning will result in a healthier, more natural looking and beautiful garden.

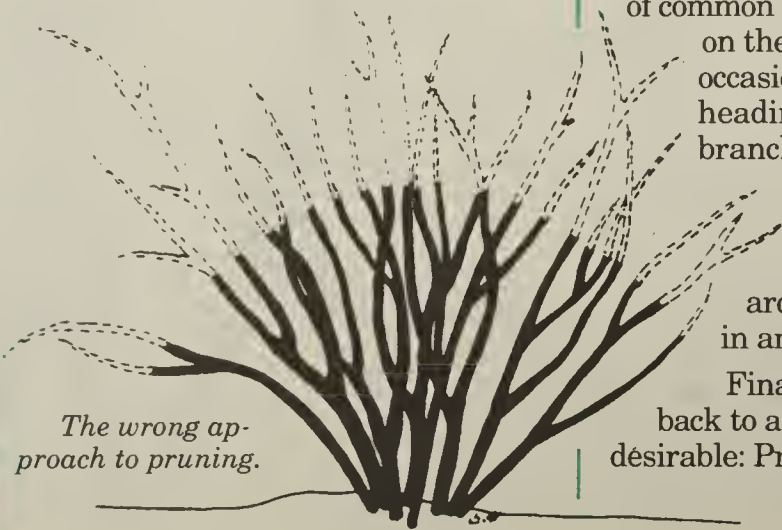
—by Ken Slump

### Class locations:

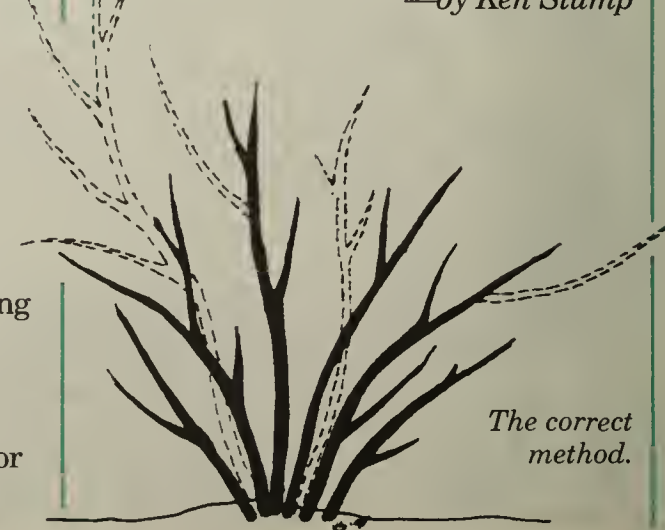
Classrooms A, B and C are at 1005 York Street, Denver.

The DBG Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is at 2320 East 11th Avenue, Denver.

Chatfield Arboretum is at 9201 South Carr Street, Littleton (south on Wadsworth Boulevard 0.3 mile past C-470, west onto Deer Creek Canyon Road).



The wrong approach to pruning.



The correct method.



The Board of Trustees of  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
cordially invites you  
to attend the  
**Members' Annual Dinner**

Featuring

Guest Speaker  
Janet Robertson

*Exploring the  
Colorado Trail*

**Thursday, April 16**

Cocktails at 6 p.m.

Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

1005 York Street

\$20 per person

Janet Robertson has hiked the length of the fascinating Colorado Trail. Her photographs will allow you to share its beauty across the miles from Denver to Durango.

A popular lecturer, professional photographer and writer, her work has appeared in the *Sierra Club Calendar*, *National Wildlife* magazine, *Sunset Magazine*, *Nordic World* and *Skier's World*. Janet Robertson's books are *The Magnificent Mountain Women* (University of Nebraska Press) and *Day Hikes on the Colorado Trail*.

Reservations will be limited—first come, first served. They must be postmarked by April 9.

Please make check payable to Denver Botanic Gardens. Return your reservation form now to: Membership Coordinator, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ member(s).

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Member I.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No confirmation or ticket will be sent. Please give your name to the attendant when you arrive at the dinner.



Denver  
Botanic  
Gardens



## Flowers in the kitchen: a bouquet of tasty recipes

by Susan Belsinger. Interweave Press, Loveland, Colorado. \$14.95  
TX 814.5 .F5 B4 1990

The introduction to this very pretty little volume states, "This book is for those who love flowers and for those who appreciate good food." The author feels these two interests go hand in hand, so her solution is to grow the flowers you enjoy, bring them into the kitchen, then eat them for supper.

But wait a minute. It's not quite that simple. I'm a lover of flowers if ever there was one—a botanist who can almost smell my way to a fairy slipper orchid or a small patch of azure alpine forget-me-nots, and a horticulturist with a home collection of bizarre plants such as witchhazel.

My avid, all-encompassing interest in cooking and eating is frequently obsessive. (Remind me to tell you about the time I brought home the durian, also known, with good reason, as the civet cat fruit.) But I still can't imagine myself making Nasturtiums Filled with Guacamole, Crepes with Viola Cream Filling and Violet Syrup or Braised Yucca Flowers with Peas.

Perhaps I've been unduly influenced by my husband, who also happens to be my most severe critic. His deep disdain for fussy, decorated dishes has been a bit discouraging.

Oh, I've gone the Alice Waters route and gotten away with garnishing homemade pizza with snippets of Greek oregano panicles. I once made a necklace of blooming rosemary twigs for a roast suckling pig (this particular endeavor required a medieval costume—on the cook, not the pig). I discovered that topping a summer gin-and-tonic with a star-shaped borage blossom is fun because the bright blue flower quickly turns magenta. And I recall those halcyon days when I even candied some wild violet blossoms.

But now I'm at the stage in my cooking and my eating when ingredients need to contribute something more than color, a novel look and food for conversation. I'm also busier than ever. And while I consider peeling cherry tomatoes (to toss with fresh chopped chives and a bit of melted butter) a labor of love, it's unlikely that I can be enticed into believing that, "using anise hyssop blossoms in place of an extract results in a delicate whisper of flavor." (The author actually suggests that "each tiny anise hyssop corolla can be stripped from the stem for a larger yield and a stronger flavor.") Even if the flowers of *Agastache foeniculum*

didn't smell, to me, like a skunk, I'd rather make fettuccine than dissect inflorescences.

So, with hesitation and the limitations of our Denver winter, I set out to try some of the recipes in *Flowers in the Kitchen*.

Scented Geranium Cake was a real winner! Of course, its half-pound of butter, six extra-large eggs and four extra-large egg yolks probably contributed as much as the scented geraniums.

Also very tasty was the Tomato and Cucumber Salad with Basil Flowers and it will be even more delicious with real, summer tomatoes.

Encouraged, I'm looking forward to spring and the blooming of my clump of chives, because, as the Shakers discovered many years ago, their pale lavender flowers add a mild oniony flavor when cooked lightly. Asparagus with Sesame and Chive Blossoms has promise as a do-ahead dish to help me cope with the last-minute details of an Oriental stir-fry. The cheese-stuffed zucchini blossoms look like an interesting way to approach this overproductive vegetable and, at the same time, slow down the harvest.

And I can't wait to see the look on my husband's face when I serve him Herbed Bean Salad with Scarlet Runner Blossoms. If the book is correct, "the flowers will be green-tasting with a bit of crunch...like a mild raw bean with floral overtones."

But unless we find ourselves wandering about on the prairie, starving (but with a surfeit of peas in our day-packs), we'll be unlikely to try Braised Yucca Flowers with Peas. I think our conversation will be interesting enough without it.

—by Pat Pachuta, Denver Botanic Gardens' director of education—and, also, its most adventurous culinary artist.

## The Butterfly Garden

by Jerry Sedenko. Villard Books, New York. \$25 ISBN 0-394-58982-3 1991

Imagine, if you will, a small garden in rural Ohio. The rectangular plot, 8' by 16', is thickly planted with zinnias and in full flower. Resting on the blossoms are butterflies of every size and color, their wings like stained glass in the afternoon sun.

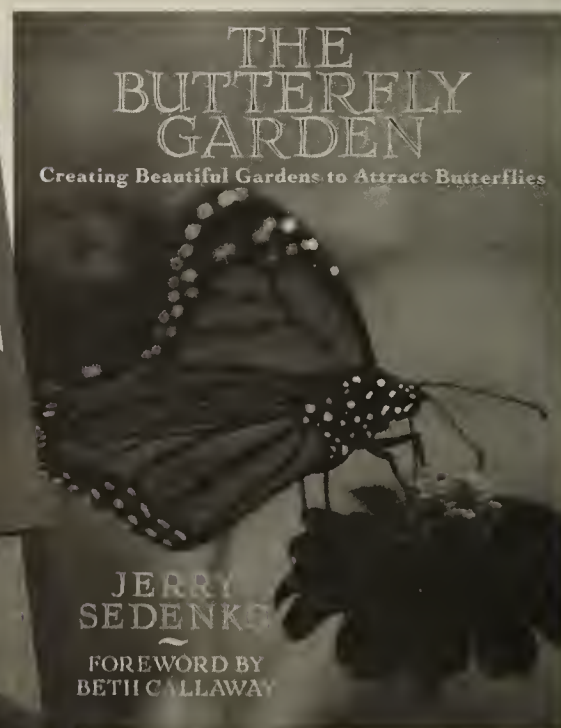
If such a bed of butterflies merits a place in your garden, you will find this book a fine guide.

The author developed an affection for butterflies during his childhood, so he discusses easily the history and habits of these enchanting creatures. He describes their life cycles, and then moves on to a "portfolio" of basic information such as habitat and food for both the larvae and adult, with an illustration for almost everyone he mentions. These sections are written with such clarity that they might be read aloud to a scientifically minded six-year old who doesn't care for anthropomorphic bears and bunnies.

The plant list is very gardener-oriented, since it includes trees and divides shrubs by height and season of bloom. Flowers, too, are grouped as perennials or annuals/biennials. It's nice to find that many of them grow well here. Additional listings include flowers for moths and birds. Two plans for small gardens have all plantings numbered or lettered so they may be found quickly on the appropriate list. Good photographs illustrate all sections.

The appendices include sources for seed and plants, a booklist, butterfly gardens to visit and relevant organizations. This is a good book, by someone who knows what he's writing about.

—by Virginia Stratton,  
a DBG volunteer





## Largest Cactus Sale At Gardens in March



The largest cactus show and sale in the Rocky Mountain region will be at the Gardens Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29.

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society will have over 50 thousand desert plants from around the world for sale during the event. Club volunteers will be on hand to help you make your selection and offer advice on how to grow your plants. In addition, free workshops will address the topics of basic care, plant identification and pest control.

Other highlights will be hourly drawings for free plants, a show of specimen plants and supplies to create your personalized dish garden.

Hours of the show and sale are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. For more information call Lauraine Smith, 1-669-5050.

## Rock Garden Conference Guides Meet at DBG

Field trip guides for the American Rock Garden Society's annual meeting in Vail in 1993 will meet in Classroom C at Denver Botanic Gardens at 7 p.m. on the 9th of this month. The speaker will be Dr. Emily Hartman, Colorado alpine expert.

If you would like to be a guide in 1993, call Sissy Gibson, 333-3744, or Shirley Nelson, 837-1410.

## Great Teachers Needed

Do you know someone who could teach about plants or natural history at the Gardens? Suggestions for capable instructors are always welcome, especially for our expanded children's program. Call 370-8019.



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FOLD BACK

## We Value Your Opinion!

To help us improve the *Green Thumb News* for our members, please give us your opinions of the following subjects:

Do you like the name, *Green Thumb News*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a suggestion for a better name?

Do you find the *GTN* easy to read? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why/why not?

Is the newsletter well organized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you like the *GTN* in its present size 8 1/2" x 11"? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to see the *GTN* in a larger 11" x 17" format? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to see more photos? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What subjects do you enjoy reading about in the *GTN*? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Activities at the Gardens
- ☐ Horticulture (How-to articles)
- ☐ Nature/wildflowers
- ☐ Environmental issues
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Trips/tours
- ☐ Calendars/schedules
- ☐ DBG staff/administrative news
- ☐ Board of Trustees activities
- ☐ Members/donors
- ☐ Children's activities
- ☐ Classes
- ☐ Other

What other subjects would you like to see covered?

Are the articles: ☐ Too long ☐ Too short ☐ Appropriate length

Please clip out, fold so the reply panel is on the outside, tape and mail to DBG. Postage is pre-paid but your stamp will save the Gardens money.

Thank you for your time and help!

FOLD UNDER



# MARCH

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. Asterisk\* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. ☉ Indicates class at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the quarterly *Education Programs* catalogue, or call 370-8020.

### March

- 2 *Introduction to Plant Life* \* ☉
- 3 *Beginning Botanical Drawing* \*
- 4 *Xeriscape for the Urban Gardener* \*
- 5 *The Water-Wise Flower Garden* \*
- 7 *The ABC's of Pruning*  
*The Basics of Organic Gardening* \* ☉  
*Propagation Workshop*  
*Classic Tuscan Entrees & Main Courses*
- 8 *Traveler's Tree Tales:*  
"Lyrical Tales from the Far East"  
*Nature Walk at Chatfield Arboretum* ☉
- 9 *American Rock Garden Society Conference Guides*  
*Drawing from Nature* \*
- 10 *The Western Cottage Garden*  
*Botanical Illustration, Mixed Media* \*
- 12 *The Complete Cottage Garden*  
*Intermediate-Advanced Bonsai: On the Rocks* \*
- 14 *Xeriscaping Your Home: Principles of Design* \* ☉  
*Classic Tuscan Vegetarian Lasagna & Ravioli*  
*Beehives Alive* ☉
- 21 & 22 *Violets & Other Fantasies Show & Sale*
- 21 *Botanical Illustration: Graphic Design* \*
- How to Train Your Grape Vine*  
*Identification of Colorado Conifers* \*
- Nature Photography* \* ☉
- 28 *Kidding Around: Nutty Peanut*
- 28 & 29 *Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale*



*A late-winter snowfall makes the anticipation of spring all the sweeter.*

## *Traveler's Tree Tales: Nature Stories for Families* *Lyrical Tales from the Far East • Lindy Tyler* *Sunday, March 8 • 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.*

### Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

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Denver, Colorado 80206  
303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

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#### Plant Societies at DBG

Many plant and horticultural societies meet regularly at DBG. For their meeting times or to contact a representative of any group in which you are interested, see the listings on page 7 of the January Green Thumb News.

Address correction requested

#### TIME VALUE

March 1992





## White Flower Farm Director First Bonfils- Stanton Lecturer



David J. A. Smith, the retired director of horticulture of the extraordinary White Flower Farm nursery, will give the first Bonfils-Stanton lecture of the year, Wednesday, April 29, at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m. Due to ticket

demand in past years, all lectures in this year's series will be presented twice, to accommodate larger audiences.

Born and educated in England, Smith came to the United States in 1984. In his slide-lecture, "Perennials Through the Seasons," he will share his years of experience, gained through a long, influential career in horticulture, including at White Flower Farm, the prestigious mail-order nursery in Litchfield, Conn., known for its unusual plant introductions.

Begun in 1987, the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation whose generous support makes it possible. Lectures will be held in Denver Botanic Gardens' John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York Street, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the months of April, May, June, September and October.

Members may attend individual lectures at \$5 each or \$20 for the series of five; nonmembers are welcome at \$8 per lecture or \$32 for the series.

The other lectures lined up for the series are:

May 27: Morgan Wheelock, an internationally acclaimed landscape architect whose work has been widely published, will speak on "Unseen Dimensions in Landscape Architecture."

June 24: Food historian Raymond Sokolov will explain how Christopher Columbus may be history's foremost example of a man who did great things without knowing what they were, in his talk, "Columbus the Unwitting." This lecture kicks off the Gardens' Columbus quincentenary celebration, "Discover America's Plants."

September 30: Mrs. Henry Brown will present "Art in Bloom."

October 28: Rosemary Verey, world-renowned garden author and lecturer, will speak on "The Scented Garden."

Please consult your special Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series brochure for ticket information, or call the education office, 370-8020.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

## Denver Botanic Gardens April 1992 Number 92-4

### '92 Plant Sale Nears; Chairman Calls for Volunteers, Donated Plants.



*It takes hundreds of volunteers to serve the thousands of customers who come to the annual Plant and Used Book Sale.*

As the Plant and Used Book Sale draws near, it is becoming easier for you to get involved. Many opportunities are open for DBG members to come to the aid of the Gardens for its largest fund-raiser of the year.

If you are an exceptionally green-thumbed gardener, faced with the happy chore of dividing or thinning your perennials and ground covers and finding new homes for the surplus, you will be glad to learn that donations of these plants are eagerly sought for the sale.

Beginning Monday, May 4, you can leave your potted divisions or seedlings in a spot designated for them, just

inside the Gaylord St. service entrance at the Gardens. You may even bring them to the Garden Donations division on the days of the sale.

It will be very helpful to sale volunteers—and will make your plants easier to sell—if you label the plants with as much information as possible: common name, botanical name (if known), variety, color, height and bloom time. Your donation, by the way, is tax deductible.

Many of the plants for this division come from the Gardens' collections. Volunteers are needed to help dig,

*continued on page 4*

### *Inside:*

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*Sogetsu Master*  
page 3

*Annual Dinner*  
page 4

*Crabapples*  
page 6

*Library Lines*  
page 7

*Coming Up*  
page 8





*For a summer of beautiful roses like these, consult with the experts at the Rose Symposium April 11.*

## From the Executive Director

April seems like the longest month because we are so anxious to be outdoors in our gardens, planting, pruning and cleaning. But most of these welcome chores must wait. While we're impatiently waiting, we celebrate two important days: Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day, April 25.

Appropriately in April, at the members' annual dinner and lecture April 16, which features a fascinating talk by Janet Robertson, we will unveil our newest exhibit on DBG's work for endangered species. The exhibit was funded by a generous grant from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation and illustrates the Gardens' efforts to preserve our temperate flora through our research in conjunction with the Center for Plant Conservation.

Thanks to staff botanist Carol Dawson, we have one of the most active programs of any botanic gardens in temperate conservation.

Additional vital work by Denver Botanic Gardens as a part of the Center for Plant Conservation is made possible by gifts from other supporters of the Gardens: the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, Broadmoor Garden Club, Garden Club of Denver, the Frost Foundation, Sally McQueen Squire, Mary Ann Adams, Forest Oil Company and many other individuals, corporations and organizations, as well as support from the SCFD. And thanks to Pat Pachuta, director of education, we have a wonderful new way to tell the public of our work.

I do hope to see you at the members' dinner and lecture and hope you enjoy the exhibit.

—Richard H. Daley

## Green Thumb News • Number 92—4 • April 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for June issue: April 17

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.



## Board Elects Officers

The board of trustees of Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., the non-profit foundation that operates Denver Botanic Gardens at 1005 York Street and Chatfield Arboretum, southwest of Littleton, elected its 1992 officers at a meeting of the trustees January 28.

Newell M. Grant, president of Grant Management Co., was reelected to his second term as president of the DBG board. Dr. Richard P. Koeppe, professor of educational administration at the University of Colorado at Denver and former superintendent of Denver Public Schools, was selected as president-elect for 1993.

Other officers elected were Mrs. Charles Gates and Mr. Donald J. Kany, vice presidents; Mr. D. Deane Hall Jr., secretary; and Mr. William T. Carman, treasurer.

## Tributes

**In memory of**  
**Catherine "Katy" Densmore**  
Don, Lori and Christy Ott

**In memory of Grace Duncan**  
Lucy E. Kissell

**In memory of Elaine R. Rich**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ferguson

**In memory of William D. Ford**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Reubel

## Denver Rose Society Symposium April 11

The Denver Rose Society will hold its 21st annual rose symposium Saturday, April 11, a Denver Botanic Gardens' free day, in John C. Mitchell II Hall. The symposium, which is presented in cooperation with the Gardens, is titled "So You Want to Grow Roses." Subjects to be covered are planning and planting, fertilizing, nurturing, diseases and pests, classifications and the various rose societies.

The symposium starts at 9:30 a.m. and continues to 1 p.m. Registration is not required. For more information contact Joan Truby at 421-9999.

## Employee of the Month

Organizing a new office is difficult enough. But getting an entirely new service up and running successfully takes special talent. Publications associate Tom Witte is February employee of the month because he has so ably and quickly turned his new position into the busiest, best design and publications center around. Every department of the Gardens has benefited from his energy and expertise.

Congratulations, Tom!



## Sign up Now for Sensory Tours, As a Guide or For A Group

Guided tours of the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center sensory garden will again be available for people with special needs this summer.

The garden and the tours were designed to provide enjoyment and learning about plants through the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing. They were planned as part of the Gardens' horticultural therapy training program. The Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is located at 2320 East 11th Avenue, between Josephine and York Streets, just east of the Gardens' main York Street entrance.

Guide training for these tours begins May 1. The five-week course, described fully in the *Spring Education Programs* quarterly, will teach you about the special plants used for these tours and how to relate them to the needs of special populations.

The tours will be available, with advance arrangement, June through September. Reservations should be made as early as possible for groups of people with disabilities and their companions. To sign up for the guide training or to schedule a tour, call the education department, 370-8020, or contact the Gardens by TDD (telephone device for the deaf), 370-8032.

## Ikebana Presents Sogetsu Master April 24

Ikebana International and the Sogetsu Society of Denver will present Mrs. Judy Hata in a demonstration of the Sogetsu School of flower arranging Friday, April 24, at 10 a.m. in the Gardens' John C. Mitchell II Hall. She will also give a demonstration at the Denver Art Museum on Tuesday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hata is a master teacher of the Sogetsu School and an active teacher at the Horticultural Society of New York, The Nippon Club, Inc., New York Botanical Garden, and the American Museum of Natural History, among others. She returns to Japan regularly to refresh her creative skills in flower arranging.

There will also be an afternoon workshop at 1:30. Participants need to bring containers, branches and flowers if possible, although some will be available at minimal cost. The workshop price is \$5; the demonstration is \$7.50. For ticket information call 443-1285 or 986-9132.

## Plains Garden Burned to Emulate Nature in Wild Grasslands

Early Wednesday morning, February 26, the DBG horticultural staff set a controlled burn of the winter-dried plants in the Laura Smith Porter Memorial Plains Garden.

The plains display undergoes a purposeful fire approximately every three years. There are several important benefits of fire, including the rapid return of plant-forming nutrients to the soil, control of weedy plant species from nearby areas and help in maintaining the natural numerical balance among the species of grassland plants.

The day for the fire was chosen with consideration of favorable weather and low air pollution, and was conducted with the permission of the Denver Fire Department and the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Beverly Capron Retires After 30 Years

Beverly Capron, who joined the Gardens' staff in November 1961 as botanist-horticulturist, retired March 31. Beverly developed the DBG plant records department, one of the most up-to-date in the nation.

## Arboretum Opens for Third Season April 1, Arbor Festival April 11

The Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum will open to the public for its third season April 1.

Then Saturday, April 11, you are invited to the annual Arbor Festival at the Arboretum. Tree seedlings will be distributed to visitors who bring recyclable materials to the festival, and artisans will demonstrate their crafts in a day of family activities.

You can watch the arts of spinning and weaving wool, making wooden whistles, weaving baskets, building bird feeders or fashioning bent-willow furniture. There will also be exhibits of solar energy cooking and of bees making honey. Other activities will be hayrides, storytelling, nature programs, a puppet show and tours. A food concession and picnic tables will be available.

A tree planting campaign will start off the day. If you would like to volunteer to help set out the tree seedlings, call 973-3705.

Throughout its season, members of the Denver Botanic Gardens, school groups and children under 16 are admitted to the Arboretum free. Adult nonmembers pay \$1 each. But there is no charge during the Arbor Festival.

*Horticulture at DBG took an interesting turn with the controlled burning of the plains garden in February.*





## 4 Writer Robertson to Address Members' Annual Dinner



Writer and free-lance photographer Janet Robertson, who has climbed all 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot mountains, will present "Exploring the Colorado Trail" to the DBG members who attend the annual dinner Thursday, April 16.

Perhaps best known for her book, "The Magnificent Mountain Women: Adventures in the Colorado Rockies," Robertson is also acclaimed for her photography, with which she will illustrate her program. Her photographs have been published in the Sierra Club calendar, *Skier's World*, *High Country News*, *National Wildlife Magazine* and *Sunset Magazine*.

Her slides will allow members to share the beauty of the Colorado Trail, from Denver to Durango. She has hiked the length of the trail and her talk will relate some of her adventures—a few of them harrowing.

To make your reservations for this members-only evening, please consult the announcement in your March *Green Thumb News*, or call the membership office, 370-8021 or 370-8029. Reservations are due by April 9.

*Draba aizoides* finds its niche in the DBG Rock Alpine Garden.

## Colorado Free Day at DBG April 11

Saturday, April 11, is a free day at the Gardens for all Colorado residents. Visitors will be treated to the sight of thousands of spring bulbs blooming at their peak. Especially pretty will be the Rock Alpine Garden and the walk among the crabapple trees.

Bring a nonmember for an early spring stroll. Cameras are definitely suggested.

## Rock Gardeners Hold Alpine Plant Sale

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society will hold its annual rock garden plant sale at Denver Botanic Gardens Saturday, April 4, at 9 a.m. The society will sell unusual and rare alpine plants to raise funds to support the Gardens' Rock Alpine Garden Symposium in Colorado in June 1993.

Most of the plants for sale are ideal for dryland or "xeriscape" plantings. Many are miniatures, suitable for planting in troughs or other patio containers. Few are available for sale anywhere in the Rocky Mountain region but at the Gardens.

For more information on the sale call 333-3744.

## Association to Form for Perennial Plant Growers

Bob Briggs, editor of Rocky Mountain Horticulture News (RMHN), has announced the formation of a new plant society, an association for aficionados of perennials, open to both professionals and amateurs.

The association is in the planning stage. If you are interested call Briggs at 427-8132.

RMNH is the official newsletter of several floral and plant industries in Colorado: the Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association, the Colorado Floriculture Foundation, the Garden Centers of Colorado and the Wholesale Florists of Colorado.

## Party April 30 to Cap Volunteer Week

Denver Botanic Gardens will hold an appreciation party for all its volunteers Thursday, April 30, during National Volunteer Week.

According to Joedy Arnold, DBG volunteer coordinator, staff members will serve ice cream and dessert in appreciation to the many volunteers who work at their sides throughout the year. The party is free for volunteers. Invitations, which will serve as tickets to the occasion, are being prepared for mailing. For information call the volunteer office, 370-8049.

## Plant Sale ...

*continued from page 1*

divide, pot and label these sought-after best sellers.

Please call volunteers Marilyn Moore, 388-6934, or Anne Bobal, 751-9078, if you would like to join the donated plants effort for the sale.

Now, to whet your appetite, here are just a few new features you can look for this year.

The xeriscape section will double in size. Roundleaf shepherdia, mescal and the desert four o'clock will be among the drought-tolerant plants for sale.

Sun Gold cherry tomatoes, Solid Gold cantaloupes, Oregon Spring tomatoes and Clarimore Lebanese zucchinis add their unusual, delicious flavors to the vegetable section.

The rock/alpine section will offer many Colorado natives, including the prairie gentian and twisted-pod draba.

We'll have a complete run-down in the May Green Thumb News. Expect to become as excited about this year's sale as the volunteers already committed to it.

—by Michael Ebbs  
Plant and Used Book Sale Chairman



### Plant Societies at DBG

#### American Hemerocallis Society

Karen Schultz  
366-9689

#### American Iris Society

David Miller  
277-0358

#### American Rock Garden Society

Dick/Ann Bartlett  
986-8096

#### Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society

H. V. Rodman,  
(H) 431-6777

(W) 278-7590

#### Colorado Mycological Society

Marilyn Shaw  
377-1278

*continued on*  
*page 6*





The Board of Trustees  
of Denver Botanic Gardens  
cordially invites you to

## ***The Flowering of Denver***

### ***Pre-sale Party***

for the

43rd Annual Plant & Used Book Sale

***Thursday, May 7, 1992***

5 to 8 p.m.

Rare Plant Auction • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Cocktail Buffet

\$50 per person

(\$25 tax-deductible donation)

Casual dress

Please reply by May 1, 1992.

(Books not available this evening.)

Bring your membership card for 10 percent discount.

**Plant Sale Chairman**  
*Michael Ebbs*

**Plant Sale Co-chairman**  
*Debbie Davis*

**Pre-sale Party Committee**  
*Mary Schaefer – Chairman*  
*Jane Davis*      *Diane Grant*  
*Barb Hamman*      *Monty Kugeler*  
*Diane Seccombe*

# 1992

## Plant & Used Book



# SALE



Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$50 each for  
***The Flowering of Denver Pre-sale Party***  
at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your check is your reservation. Reservations are due by May 1.  
Please make your check payable to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Reply to: Mrs. Timothy A. Davis  
2940 South Detroit Way  
Denver, Colorado 80210

For more information call 756-9566.





*Above, crabapples may bloom before, with or after the foliage unfolds. Below right, most crabapples are low-branching trees.*

#### **Plant Societies at DBG**

**Denver Rose Society**  
2nd Thursday  
Joan Franson  
424-3942

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers**  
Debbie Griffith  
969-8153

**Ikebana International**  
Margaret Rayl  
850-7461

**Men's Garden Club of Denver**  
Jim Arduser  
794-5974

**Rocky Mountain African Violet Society**  
Janice Sorenson  
220-8799

**Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society**  
Larry Jaekel  
693-2991

**Ultra Violet Club**  
Pam Miller  
978-0151

**Colorado Native Plant Society**  
Bill Jennings  
666-8348

**Colorado Water Garden Society**  
Dan Winter  
239-8571

Flowering crabapples are, indisputably, the most popular small ornamental tree. New clones are continually being introduced, making it difficult to keep track of the few truly superior ones. It is estimated that more than 500 types exist!

Although the seemingly endless variability of the genus accounts for its acclaim, the same variation means that not all perform the same in our High Plains/Rocky Mountain home landscapes. Some have serious flaws. Others bloom beautifully, year after year, with hardly a problem.

How can you choose from among so many possibilities?

Crabapples range from as short as three feet to more than 35 feet tall and their growth habits vary from columnar to spreading and weeping. Leaves may be bright and light or rich, dark green. Some varieties sport foliage of reddish hues.

Also, you may choose from a range of fruit characteristics. These vary from large-fruited types eaten as small tart apples, to trees producing fruit ideal for jellies, to sterile varieties which produce no fruit at all. Fruit color varies from red to yellow and green, and may persist ornamentally on the tree for many months or fall soon after ripening, causing a litter problem.

Crabapples are of the same genus as apples. To distinguish between the two, fruit larger than two inches in diameter is an apple, less than two inches is classified as a crabapple.

The beauty of crabapple trees in full bloom is incomparable. Their flowering season ranges from April through May, and occasionally early June, depending on the variety. Blossoms may be single or double in shades ranging from white through pink, red and purple.

But crabapples are not without problems. They are host to numerous maladies: cedar apple rust, fireblight, apple scab, scales, cankers and borers.

Of these, fireblight may be the most serious problem in this region. It is a bacterial disease usually spread by insects (often by the bees pollinating the flowers) and is first manifested by a drying-up and dying-back of young leaves and shoot tips. Control is difficult. Careful pruning of infected branches will remedy mild outbreaks, but severe infections may kill the trees.

When pruning out branches infected with fireblight, make the cut several inches back into the healthy part of the branch and sterilize the pruners between cuts, dipping the blades in a solution containing ten percent chlorine bleach.

There are disease-resistant varieties of crabapples available, but unfortunately, it is only their floral characteristics that have dictated the popularity of most cultivars. More logically, form, foliage, fruit and disease resistance should be the selection criteria; flowers are effective for only about one week a year, whereas a heavy crop of colorful, persistent fruit can provide a tree with months of ornamental appeal.

Disease-prone, messy-fruited varieties have tarnished the reputation of crabapples in general. Among the popular offenders is the variety 'Hopa', endearing in May when covered with rose-pink blossoms but rued in September when the succulent one-inch fruits litter the ground beneath it.

A better alternative would be the slightly smaller 'Indian Summer' variety, which features rose-red flowers and bright red fruit to a three-quarter-inch diameter that persists on the tree into winter until eaten by appreciative,

hungry birds. 'Indian Summer' can also produce attractive reddish-orange fall foliage in a favorable season.

Another favorite with a serious drawback is the double-flowered 'Bechtel' crabapple, which is very susceptible to fireblight. There are more desirable varieties such as 'Donald Wyman', which is a rounded, disease-resistant tree with red buds that open to white flowers. The one-half-inch fruits of 'Donald Wyman' turn from cardinal red in September to oxblood by November and may be showy and effective for fully eight months.

The variety 'Adams,' is another rounded tree, with carmine buds opening to pink. The persistent fruit of the 'Adams' crabapple is burgundy-colored and the new foliage on this disease-resistant variety is reddish bronze. If you would like to see 'Donald Wyman' and 'Adams', they are two among a number of crabapple varieties in the plantings at the west end of the main walkway, just south of the greenhouses at Denver Botanic Gardens.

The variety 'Anne E' is recommended as a good selection with the sought-after weeping growth habit. It is a small scale tree, only eventually reaching 10 feet. Red buds open to single white flowers. Its oxblood colored fruits persist through January. 'Anne E' crabapples grow on the west side of the Rothgerber Berm at Denver Botanic Gardens, near the AARS test roses.

Because of its variability, versatility and adaptability, the ornamental crabapple is the most important small landscape tree in a large part of temperate North America. Researching beyond the alluring spring flowers will help you find a variety that will bring years of all-season interest to your garden.

—by Ken Slump





## Classic Bulbs

by Katherine Whiteside. Villard Book, New York, \$40. SB 425.W5 1991.

When the second foot of snow is falling on the garden, and the cat's contemptuous look says the weather is all wrong again, a book about bulbs helps to keep everything in perspective.

The author uses the definition of *Hortus Third* to include "bulbs, corms, tubers, or thickened rhizomes" and defines the classic bulbs of her title as "long-loved, traditional treasures." She expands on their history and their journeys around the world.



## Sunflower Houses:

*Gardening discoveries for children of all ages*

by Sharon Lovejoy. Interweave Press, Loveland, CO, \$19.95. SB 457. L68 1991.

Many of my early childhood memories and garden experiences were formed inside a fortress of privet and in radish gardens that popped up all over the backyard. Yet, as good as these and a few dozen other memories are, I would love to have shared some of Sharon Lovejoy's memories.

Parents, grandparents and educators will be delighted by Lovejoy's book. Being one of these has provided me with a wonderful excuse to read and reread it and to try some of its garden activities.

Sunflower Houses is a collection of sensory-filled, memory-creating activities. Included are delightful descriptions for making hollyhock dolls, poppy maidens and trumpet flower bubbles. The simple activities are perfect ideas to share with your children, grandchildren or students. Intertwined among the directions are nostalgic trips down memory lane.

The spirit of the book is sentimental, a collection of stories and teachings that will enrich your life. I know one adult who has gone "bonkers" over the idea of growing a sunflower house in the backyard, a room with morning glory roof and sunflower walls. It would be the perfect place and way for a child to spend the last days of summer vacation.

—by Carol Knepp, DBG's youth education specialist

## Gardening With Color

by Mary Keen. Random House, New York, \$30. SB 454.3 .C64 K4 1991.

Mary Keen lives in Berkshire, England, where she is well known for her creative garden designs as well as her writing. She defines her color as "not so much a scientific subject as a subjective science," thereby making harmonies of color, texture and contrast the basis of her garden plans.

Although the opening chapters deal with individual colors, they

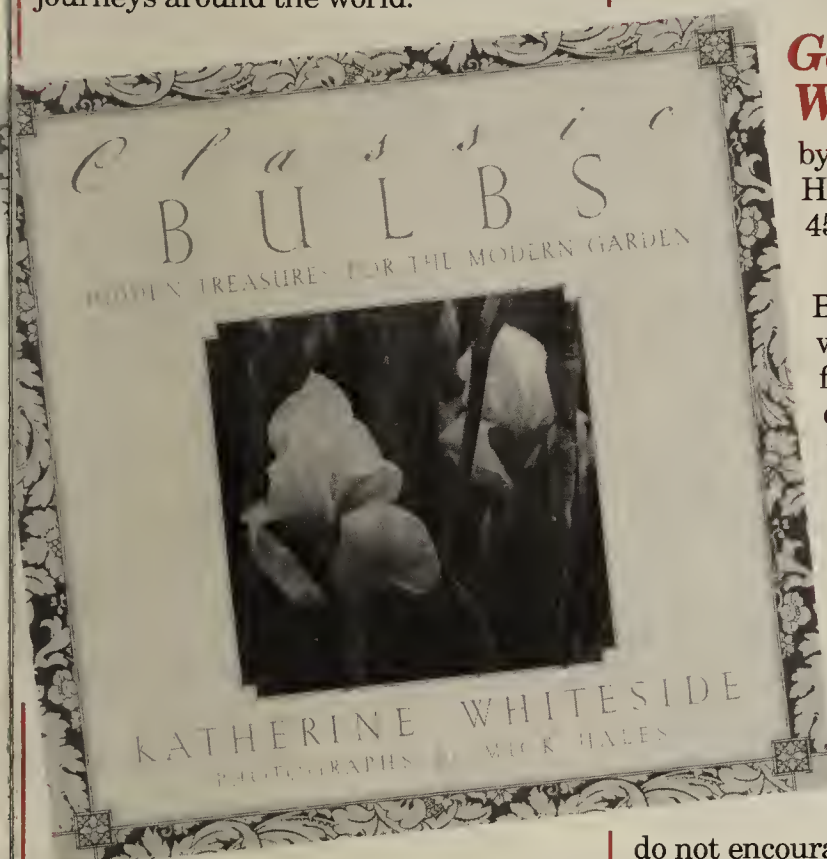
do not encourage a monochromatic approach. Plans for her beds are explained by color drawings and photographs. Planting designs cover three or four blooming periods, providing color from early spring to late fall.

Throughout the book, Mrs. Keen emphasizes the importance of light. In England not only does the light differ from ours, but the growing seasons differ as well. The beautiful *Ceanothus impressus* and the lovely white wisteria flourish there, but adequate substitutes would be very hard to find here. Don't let that caveat put you off this book though, for most of the plants used may be grown here, and Mrs. Keen's suggestions for alternatives and her knowledgeable advice are worth your time. Besides, she writes with a wonderfully firm, no-nonsense style.

The last two chapters discuss mixed colors and seasonal colors, which are especially appropriate for this area. Very complete directories close the book. The first lists plants and advises on the time of bloom, height and so on. The second is a color directory, arranged by spectrum.

If you pay attention to the information offered in this book, you can't go wrong with color in the garden.

—by Virginia Stratton



Beginning with A for *Acidanthera* and going right through to Z for *Zantedeschia*, she tells us all about these wonderful flowers, their naming, growing requirements, cultivation and much more in amusing and flowery prose. Many beautiful photographs illustrate her subjects, showing both traditional and innovative plantings. Each alphabetical listing is followed by the growing zones and the supplier.

The author's hints on forcing are especially helpful, and appropriate for this time of year. If you have not explored the uses of bulbs in your garden, Katherine Whiteside surely will convince you of your oversight. If you have, you will profit from her research while you share her enthusiasm.

There are also passages paying tribute to those dedicated collectors of plants who risked (and sometimes lost) life and limb to secure some of the bulbs that we enjoy today.

The "sources" section uses the Andersen Horticultural Library of Plants and Seeds. The suppliers also have their own listing, with addresses. These sections and the bibliography are nicely illustrated; the index is unadorned.

—by Virginia Stratton,  
Helen Fowler Library volunteer

## Library to Limit Check-Out Renewals

Beginning April 1 Denver Botanic Gardens' Helen Fowler Library will limit the number of times users can renew the books they have checked out to twice. Including the initial three-week check-out period, this means the limit for keeping a book out of the collection is nine weeks.

Although the library is available for use by anyone, only DBG members may check out books. Here's a reminder: the library is now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day of the week. For information call the librarian, 370-8014.

Helen Fowler Library  
Open Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Librarian: Solange Gignac

LIBRARY HOURS



## Coming Up

Classes are in *italics*. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☉ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the Spring *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                      |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Chatfield Arboretum opens for the season<br><i>Peas in a Pot</i>                                                                                                     |    | Traveler's Tree Tales: Under the African Sky                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2  | <i>Beginning Bonsai *</i><br><i>Designing Your Home Irrigation System *</i><br><i>Peas in a Pot</i>                                                                  | 13 | <i>Ageratum to Zinnias *</i><br><i>Beets TV: Hooked on Worms</i><br><i>Vegetable Gardening for Results: Cole Crops</i>                                                                                                                   |
| 3  | <i>Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop</i>                                                                                                                                 | 14 | <i>The Aquatic Garden: Basic Pool Construction</i><br><i>Drawing Plants in Color *</i>                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4  | Rock Garden Society Plant Sale<br><i>Eggshell Jewels</i><br><i>Rainbow Eggs</i><br><i>Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop</i>                                              | 15 | <i>Ageratum to Zinnias *</i><br><i>Beginning Ikebana Lessons *</i>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5  | <i>A Classic Tuscan Easter Feast</i><br><i>Landscape Materials: Ground Covers</i>                                                                                    | 16 | Annual Members' Dinner<br><i>The Aquatic Garden: Basic Pool Construction</i>                                                                                                                                                             |
| 6  | <i>Beets TV: Grow A Giant</i><br><i>Our Fuzzy, Woolly Zoo *</i><br><i>Vegetable Gardening for Results: Soil Preparation</i>                                          | 20 | <i>Beets TV: Incredible Spuds</i><br><i>Vegetable Gardening for Results: The Tomato</i>                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7  | <i>The Case of the African Violet</i><br><i>The Half-Barrel: Your First Water Garden</i><br><i>Xeriscaping Your Home: Principles of Design * ☼</i>                   | 21 | <i>Water Gardening for Beginners *</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8  | <i>The Fascinating Fungi *</i><br><i>Sensational Summer Bulbs *</i><br><i>Watercolor Painting*</i>                                                                   | 23 | <i>Water Gardening for Beginners *</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9  | <i>The Half-barrel: Your First Water Garden</i>                                                                                                                      | 24 | <i>The Rock Alpine Garden: What's New?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11 | DBG Free Day<br>Rose Symposium<br><i>Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour</i><br>Chatfield Arboretum Annual Arbor Festival ☼<br><i>Selecting Perfect Bedding Plants</i> | 25 | Chatfield Arboretum Free Day ☼<br><i>Everlasting Wreaths</i><br><i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i><br><i>Landscape Materials: Year-round</i><br><i>Color with Shrubs</i><br><i>Ornamental Grasses</i><br><i>Kidding Around: Terrific Trees</i> |
| 12 | <i>The Case of the African Violet</i><br><i>Rocky Mountain Arsenal Field Trip</i><br><i>Tree Walk at Fairmount Cemetery</i>                                          | 26 | <i>Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                      | 27 | <i>In Peter Rabbit's Garden *</i><br><i>Selecting Perfect Bedding Plants</i>                                                                                                                                                             |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                      | 28 | <i>Fertilizer Finesse</i><br><i>Advanced Botanical Illustration *</i>                                                                                                                                                                    |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                      | 29 | Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: David J. A. Smith<br>"Perennials Through the Seasons"<br><i>Miniature Roses in the Landscape</i>                                                                                                                |

*Members' Annual Dinner • Thursday, April 16*  
*'Exploring the Colorado Trail'*  
*Make Your Reservations by April 9*

## Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206  
303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

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## Plant Societies at DBG

*Many plant and horticultural societies meet regularly at DBG. A complete listing begins on page 4. Contact a representative of any group in which you are interested for information and meeting times.*





## DBG to Host National Olmstead Parks Conference

The spring 1992 conference of the National Association for Olmsted Parks will be held at the Denver Botanic Gardens May 14 and 15.

This non-profit association is dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, the 19th-century landscape architect responsible for the design of many important American landscapes, such as New York's Central Park, the United States Capitol Grounds, Stanford University campus and Yosemite National Park.

Much of Denver's reputation as a "city of parks" rests on the vision of Olmsted and his firm. The landscaping plan for 17th Avenue Parkway, an example of the "city beautiful" idea that people would be uplifted by a congenial route to work, is one outstanding Olmsted contribution as are Denver's unique mountain park system, its Washington Park and the Williams Street Parkway.

"Making a Difference: An Olmsted Gathering in the Rockies," as the conference is titled, will feature Charles Beveridge, editor of the Olmsted papers, and Holly Miller, manager of Seattle Parks and Recreation, as keynote speakers. It will include a panel discussion by national participants on the state of the Olmsted vision in 1992 and will include six seminars on important contemporary landscape issues: water conservation, tree protection, public-private partnerships, public funding sources, citizen participation and 21st-century design. Mobile workshops will take registrants through Denver's park and parkway system and into the metropolitan Denver mountain parks.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Parks and Recreation, The Park People, Colorado Chapter of the American Association of Landscape Architects and the National Park Service.

For information call Susan Edwards, Denver Parks & Recreation, 964-2523.

## From Plant & Used Book Chairman: More Good News for Members—Early Admission, Reduced Prices, Faster Check-Out

Your Denver Botanic Gardens membership card will be especially handy at this year's Plant & Used Book Sale. Special privileges await you. But the May 8 and 9 super-sale is bigger and better for everyone else, as well.

Your card works for you right from the start, before the gates open for the general public. As a member, you can enter an hour early. Just show your card at 8:30 a.m. either day of the sale.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

### Denver Botanic Gardens May 1992 Number 92-5



*An eager gardener looks over the selection of annuals at a former Plant and Used Book Sale.*

### *Inside:*

*From the Director*  
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*Antique Power*  
page 5

*Fastigiates*  
page 6

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page 7

*Coming Up*  
page 8

Your card keeps working for you up until the time you leave. One of the improvements in check-out service is members-only cashier counters. With your DBG membership card you will be able to whisk through with your purchases, taking advantage of whichever payment option you choose cash, check or credit card.

And while you're shopping, keep your membership in mind as you men-

tally deduct 10 percent from the prices posted on all plants and books. That's your member's discount. During the plant sale the usual minimum purchase requirement will be waived.

Sale veterans are accustomed to exciting discoveries and even nonmembers will get enthused over the new items this year. Following are just a few exciting introductions this year.

*continued on page 4*



## From the Executive Director

Membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens has grown rapidly the last two years, and we are now in the process of making certain that the benefits we offer are the ones you want. Louise Connor, the Gardens' director of membership and development, has undertaken a systematic study using focus groups and telephone surveys. This research follows a mail survey by marketing and public relations that solicited members' views on the *Green Thumb News*.

We don't want to wait for the focus group results to start giving you more benefits. The first of these is a new discount for members at our increasingly popular Plant & Used Book Sale on May 8 and 9. If you will just show your membership card at the new members' check-out counters you will receive a 10 percent discount on plants and books.

Our goal is to have the most exciting package of benefits possible for our members, and we encourage you to take advantage of all of them. If you have suggestions for benefits please tell me, Louise Connor or Syd Glick, our membership coordinator.

—Richard H. Daley

## Tributes

**In memory of Mrs. Ethel Raleigh**  
Allyne E. Lawless

**In memory of Patricia J. Taylor**  
Gordon, Dene, Tim & Tammy Carter

Another reason  
to visit the  
Gardens in May:  
Lilacs are  
blooming early  
in the month.



## Contributors to the Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Fund

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## Green Thumb News • Number 92-5 • May 1992

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Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Life Trustee Larry Long Dies

Lawrence A. Long, president of the Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees from 1958 to 1967, died March 6 in Scottsdale, Ariz., at the age of 83.

Mr. Long was elected to the board in 1957 and was an active member until his death. An influential Denver lawyer, he was generous with his much-respected counsel in the management of the board's decisions. Six years ago he was honored with elevation to life trustee.

Besides the warm friendship he shared with many of the Gardens' early supporters, he is remembered for the valuable energy and expertise he lent to many of its' fundraising campaigns. The Gardens' landmark Boettcher Memorial Conservatory, dedicated in 1968, is the result of his successful pursuit of the large Boettcher Foundation grant that enabled its construction. He was also tireless in building the Gardens' endowment fund.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and five children: Sandy, in Anchorage, Alaska; Fred, Betsy Jones and Tom in Denver; and Virginia Harrison in Santa Rosa, Calif.

According to friends and family members, his life-long affections were for gardens, golf and music. DBG Executive Director Richard H. Daley has announced that a suitable memorial to Mr. Long is planned at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

## Employees of the Month

It's a tie!

Judy Elliott, community gardens coordinator, affectionately known as "Jungle Judy," has contributed immeasurably to the enormous challenge of taking the Gardens to the communities of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. She helps many people with her vast knowledge of plants as "Dr. Green," shares her expertise on composting with other agencies; and devotes inexhaustible energy to the community gardens as coordinator and teacher. Judy truly communicates the joy of gardening and we commend and congratulate her.

Michelle Gatewood, an amiable and hard-working member of the membership and development staff, has an attitude of cooperation and support for the team. Never hesitating when asked to fill in at the switchboard, she cheerfully assists with the same pleasant spirit she demonstrates in the membership department.

Congratulations, Michelle.



*The Gardens peony collection attracts visitors during May.*

## Trustee Gloria Falkenberg Dies, Founding Member of Guild & Associates

Gloria A. Falkenberg, Denver Botanic Gardens trustee and a founding member of its two support auxiliaries, the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild and the Denver Botanic Gardens Associates, died March 10. She was 68.

Mrs. Falkenberg was intimately involved with many activities of the Gardens and was a friendly, guiding force for staff and trustees alike. She was a familiar volunteer in the Gift Shop and an annual volunteer in the Plant and Used Book Sale and the Holiday Sale.

She was director of development at the Gardens from 1979 to 1984, during which the capital campaign "To Fulfill A Promise," spearheaded by fellow trustee Richard A. Kirk, came to fruition, enabling the construction of Marnie's Pavilion, the Rock Alpine Garden, the Japanese Garden and initial facilities at Chatfield Arboretum. A portion of the campaign funds was placed in the Gardens' endowment fund, one of Mrs. Falkenberg's areas of intense interest.

As development director Mrs. Falkenberg was instrumental in the acquisition of the Frank Swanson sculptur, *Reflections*, in the Gardens' lotus pool, and of other amenities in the outdoor gardens. The Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center was also planned and developed during her tenure.

She was active in the Herb Society of America and influential in the development of the DBG Herb Garden. She was widely known as a lecturer on the growing and use of herbs. The secret-recipe herb vinegar sold by the Guild to raise funds for the Gardens was developed by her.

Mrs. Falkenberg was three times chairman of the largest DBG fundraiser, the annual Plant & Used Book Sale, was on the advisory board of the DBG Gift Shop and a member of the Helen Fowler Library committee (now inactive). Her love of both plants and books led her to develop the Gift Shop's large inventory of gardening and nature books. She was especially fond of introducing children to the world of plants and nature through books.

A Colorado native, Mrs. Falkenberg was born in Denver, graduated from East High School and attended the universities of Colorado and Denver. She received her master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Many of Mrs. Falkenberg's family who survive her are also familiar friends of the Gardens: her husband, John, and children John, Dorothy Borland, Nancy Deardorff, Virginia, Elizabeth, and Katheryn See. She had four grandchildren.

The Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Fund at Denver Botanic Gardens was established in her memory. According to Executive Director Richard H. Daley, it will be used to fulfill her wish for a new garden connecting the west Herb Garden and the Scripture Garden. Its new pathways and plantings are one of the critical elements in improving circulation that are a part of the master plan being developed.

For information on contributions, call 370-8030.



*Dill 'Fernleaf', a 1992 All-America Selection winner, will be available in the herb section of the May super sale.*



## Plant Sale A BYOB Affair

A plea from the Plant & Used Book Sale organizers: Please bring your own boxes to carry your purchases home.

As Denver Botanic Gardens continues to grow, space is getting scarce. Space usually available to accumulate and store boxes for the sale has disappeared; they will be in very short supply this year.

So reuse a few of those boxes piling up in your garage or basement. Or bring your little red wagon.

*continued from page 1*

**Annuals:** Last year you saw a few baskets of Verbena 'Peaches and Cream'. Now you can buy individual plants of this pretty creeper. This variety is one of the few that reblooms without deadheading.

Canna 'Tropical Rose' is a new seed-grown variety of this imposing plant. Dianthus 'Ideal Violet' is deep plum colored, and very heat tolerant, to boot.

In this section of the sale, look also for feathertop and other ornamental grasses, orange tasselflowers and new impatiens hybrids. For sun or shade, there are annuals for every situation.

**Baskets and Statuary:** This relatively new section offers hand-painted flower pots, planted with herbs and annuals, Denver's largest selection of topiaries, cedar planters and stone garden sculptures.

**Home Donations:** Here's the division to visit if you're looking not only for something unusual, but astonishing bargains. This year they've moved to the cutting garden, on the southwest side of the main waterlily display pool.

**Gift Shop:** Here you can buy your own DBG scarf or garden apron (good, also, for dozens of other uses); bird-houses and feeders in all styles, from rustic to elegant; and—surprise—seeds.

**Herbs:** The selection is so great here, it's hard to imagine adding anything new, but this year the herb volunteers have found a new 'Fernleaf' dill and a plant as wonderful for its flowers as for its flavoring qualities—*anise hyssop*.

**Patio Plants:** Flowers, herbs and vegetables have been potted up for you in amazing variety, in planters and hanging baskets.

**Rock/Alpine Plants:** Many Colorado natives are featured this year, including prairie gentians, with tulip-like blue flowers, and the twisted-pod draba, with rosettes of shiny, hairy leaves and yellow flowers.

**Roses:** In addition to the usual huge selection of modern large-flowered "hybrid teas," this year's sale offers new shrub rose varieties. Some of these are the new Austin roses, that combine the fullness and fragrance of old garden roses with the repeat blooming habit of the moderns. Others are Canadian varieties, especially hardy and perfect for Denver's continental climate. Look also for *Rosa rugosa* 'Linda Campbell'. Developed by major rose breeder Ralph Moore, and named in honor of DBG's friend and supporter, and wife of a DBG trustee, Linda Campbell, this crimson beauty blooms and blooms.

**Houseplants:** This section is located indoors in John C. Mitchell II Hall, off the east side of the lobby. How about a flowering tropical tree, such as purple orchid tree, dwarf bottlebrush or plumeria? Bananas and tree ferns will give your rooms a distinct, tropical look. Need a vine for your conservatory or atrium? You'll find passion flower and Madagascar jasmine plants. This section will also offer its usual large selection of easy-to-grow plants and potted flowers, ideal for Mother's Day gifts.

**Orchids:** For those of you who love orchids but are afraid to grow them, the sale offers varieties developed specifically for normal house conditions. Now you have no excuse not to add orchids to your collection of unusual houseplants.

You will want to take extra time to visit every division of the sale this year. And keep your Denver Botanic Gardens membership card handy. It's worth more than ever before.

You might also consider a DBG membership as a gift for someone else. Spread the privilege around at the 1992 Plant & Used Book Sale.

—Michael Ebbs, Chairman



## 'Unseen Dimensions' Lecture May 27

How should our domesticated landscapes, our "second nature," fit into the larger environment?

This month's lecture in DBG's series sponsored by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, by Morgan Dix Wheelock, will discuss this and other philosophical aspects of our responsibility to nature in "Unseen Dimensions in Landscape Architecture." This personal vision by the president and founder of one of America's most awarded and most influential design firms will be shared twice on Wednesday, May 27, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., in Denver Botanic Gardens' John C. Mitchell II Hall.

"We have not only heard about the damage we are doing to the environment," Mr. Wheelock says. "We know now now that it is true...We know now that we are seriously contributing to the imbalance in nature." His answers to this human intrusion will be illustrated by design projects of his firm, which aspires to "bring mankind closer into harmony and balance with Nature."

If you have not yet subscribed to this outstanding series, call the education office, 370-8020 for tickets.

## Herb Garden Volunteers Hold Open House

The Denver Botanic Gardens Guild will get acquainted with prospective new members at its annual open house in the DBG Herb Garden, 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 20.

The reception coincides with a regular work session of the Guild volunteers, so visitors will see them in action at their primary function, assisting the Gardens in the planting and maintenance of the Herb Garden.

They will have on hand some of the herb products and recipe booklets Guild members have made to sell at fund-raising events.

The Guild offers its members educational programs about gardening in general and about herbs in particular, along with good company and other opportunities to serve the Gardens.

For more information call Gray Josephs, vice-president, at 698-2343.

## Gardeners of America: New Name, Old Group

In a move to shed an image of exclusivity, the Men's Garden Club of America and its local affiliates nationwide have changed their names.

The national organization is now called Gardeners of America. The local group is Gardeners of America, Denver Chapter. There is also a regional Rocky Mountain chapter.

The society, which meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Denver Botanic Gardens' Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center, is campaigning for more members, and hopes its recent name change will help attract more women and couple members, though it has not had a policy of excluding them in the past.

Its goals are educational, learning and teaching about home gardening. The group has held an annual produce and plant sale at the Gardens for years, the proceeds from which have gone to DBG education programs and to the society's own educational efforts.

For more information, call John Hubert, president of the Denver Chapter, at 973-3728.

## Volunteers Have New Coordinator

Executive Director Richard H. Daley announced the appointment of long-time volunteer Joedy Arnold as the Gardens' volunteer coordinator, effective January 1.

Arnold was a founding member and immediate past president of the DBG Guild. She has also volunteered for many of the Gardens' fund-raising functions. She has been acting as unofficial coordinator for over a year.

For information on the many areas at Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum for which volunteers are needed, call 370-8049. The volunteer coordinator's office, located in the carriage house at 909 York Street, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

## DBG Summer Rates Begin May 1

From May through September Denver Botanic Gardens' gate admission for nonmembers will return to \$4, with discounted fees of \$2 for adults 65 and older and children 6 through 15. Children under 6 are admitted free.

School groups from the six-county Scientific & Cultural Facilities District are admitted free, and a discount rate is available for adult groups of 10 or more.

To receive a discount, all groups must make advance arrangements with the education office, at 370-8020.

## Antique Equipment Back Down on the Farm at Chatfield

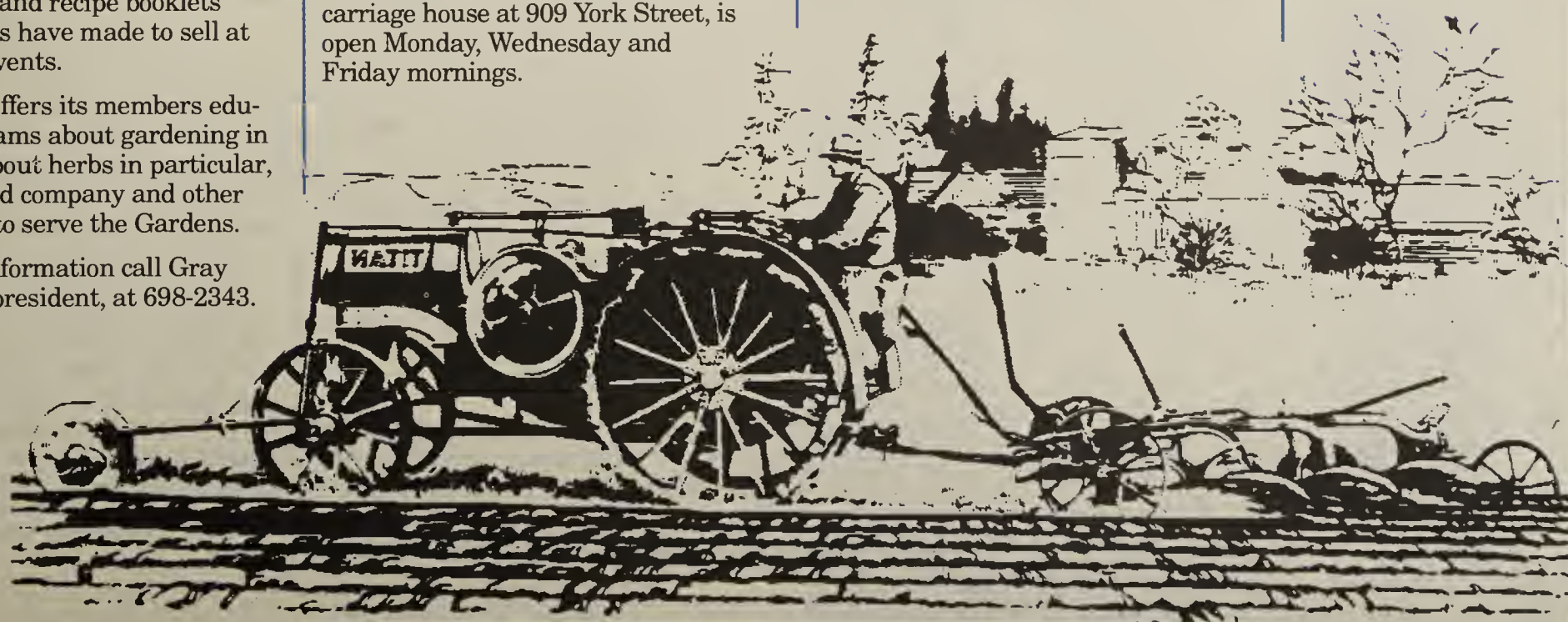
Chatfield Arboretum will be the bustling site of exhibits and demonstrations of antique power equipment, Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3.

Farm machinery and tractors, cars, trucks, motorcycles and engines of all types will be on display for the "first annual" spring show by the Front Range Antique Power Association in cooperation with Denver Botanic Gardens. A blacksmith display and related hobby and craft exhibits will add to the old-fashioned fun.

Activities will include tractor competitions, a kids' tractor tug-of-war and plowing demonstrations, with the beneficial result that the Arboretum will have its seedbeds prepared for the patches of pumpkins and Indian corn to be grown for the October Pumpkin Festival.

This is a weekend for the whole family. Steak dinners will be available each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is \$3, free for children under 14. Of course Denver Botanic Gardens members will be admitted free.





Not unlike children in a candy store, enthusiastic shoppers at the DBG Plant and Used Book Sale often find the abundance of plants irresistible. We eagerly latch onto precious new finds even though we realize that our garden plots are already over-planted and our time is too scarce during this gardening season.

Nevertheless, any gardener worth his grimy fingernails and calloused knees will always find room for "just a few more."

If Mother's Day weekend finds the clock working against you, here are a few hints for keeping your plants in top shape until you get the chance to plant them into the ground.

Everything depends to a large extent on Colorado's fickle spring weather. Our average frost-free date is May 15. Woody plants, hardy herbs and perennials that have been grown outdoors before the sale may be left outside without special protection unless the weather turns very cold. In the event of freezing forecast you can move them temporarily into a sheltered area, such as your garage, for protection.

However, keep the plants indoors as little as possible, even if it means moving them outside each day. You need to try to provide your plants with the same light they will receive in their eventual locations so they will not grow weak and spindly.

Keep your new plants adequately watered, allowing the soil to dry only somewhat between rewaterings. Note: small cell packs of plants are often root-bound and may require daily watering on sunny days.

Vegetables and annuals, most of which are actually tropicals, may require a different approach. Some are quite cold tolerant and may be kept outdoors. Others should be protected at night until all danger of frost is past. Such heat lovers may benefit from being moved indoors nightly for a while, or you can put them temporarily in a very sunny window.

When you buy your plants, ask the DBG volunteers to tell you about the special needs of the plants they sell.

If you know it will be a week or two before you are able to plant, this is a good time to pinch back some annuals to make them bushier and, eventually, more floriferous. This may make them flower later, but it will reduce the amount of top growth their roots have to support during this critical interim period. You can float the short stems and flowers you clip off in a bowl as a cheery forecast of the season ahead.

—Ken Slump, horticulturist, DBG plant collections department



## Fastigate Plants: Nature's Exclamation Points

It's a happy accident that any population of seedlings from one plant species often includes individuals of considerably diverse size, color, shape and vigor. From this diversity plant breeders and other horticulturists can select and reproduce vegetatively specimens that they deem to have particular ornamental appeal or usefulness.

Tree and shrub cultivars with branches coming off at narrow, nearly vertical angles from the main stem are some that have caught the attention of such plantmen. These may be termed narrowly pyramidal, columnar or "fastigate".

Common examples of this habit of growth are Lombardy poplars. They are often planted as screens in new housing developments where their rapid growth is appreciated. Although striking in form, however, poplars have a major flaw: They're quite short-lived.

However, many other deciduous and evergreen species also have selections with fastigate growth. Such plants contrast effectively with round and spreading plant forms and are useful in situations where space is tight. Like the exclamation point in prose, they should be used with discretion or their dramatic effect diminishes.

Tallhedge buckthorns are good deciduous shrubs with vertical habits. They are often used in hedges because their lustrous dark green foliage provides a dense screen. A mature buckthorn may exceed 12 feet in height but spread to only three feet.

In a rather out-of-the-way spot there are specimens of the fastigate form of another deciduous tree, rarely seen in this area, the European beech. Growing against the north wall of the education

building grow three young trees. You can find them on your left as you exit the doors behind the lobby court pool. European beech trees typically branch close to the ground and are esteemed for their satiny foliage and distinctive, smooth gray trunks.

Good examples of fastigate conifers grow in several DBG gardens. Evergreens bring interest to the landscape in all seasons, but are particularly welcome in winter. Narrowly upright forms, however, have a major drawback: Their branches are especially vulnerable to breaking under heavy snows.

Five handsome specimens of fastigate Scots pine grow just north of the Herb Garden. Twisted blue-green needles and rugged, cinnamon-colored bark contribute to their ornamental value. Nearby, standing like sentries, 'Skyrocket' junipers flank both sides of the arbor into the Scripture Garden. 'Skyrocket' is a selection of our native Rocky Mountain juniper and is one of the narrowest forms of any.

Along the walkway between the peony garden and the rose garden notice the row of fastigate Douglas-firs, also a Colorado native. Just north of these are three younger Douglas-firs with the openly conical habit typical of the species—an interesting comparison.

The growth habits of plants are among the more subtle yet more important elements of garden design. Beyond a colorful floral display in a well-executed garden lies a skillful blend of forms. Fastigate habit, appreciated by landscape architects and garden designers, is the most commanding of these plant forms.

—Ken Slump

One of hundreds of volunteers working the sale prepares plants in the Rock Alpine section.





## Old Garden Roses Display June 6

The Denver Rose Society will hold its annual display of old garden roses and species roses at Denver Botanic Gardens Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For those familiar only with modern hybrid rose shows, this will be an unexpectedly fragrant, colorful, graceful show. Old garden roses are shown by the bough, with perhaps dozens of delightfully old-fashioned blossoms on each stem, interspersed with delicate, unfolding green leaflets.

These are the roses of alleys and forgotten homesteads. They are also the roses coming back into vogue for gardeners who prefer not to baby their plants with weekly waterings, frequent spraying for insects and diseases and hand-wringing over winter hardiness. They are the subject of much ongoing hybridizing for growers in Canada and the northern United States who want tough, trouble-free garden plants.

For more information on the display call 424-3942.

## Christmas Tree Mulch Available

Mulch made by grinding up Christmas trees will be given away by the Solid Waste Management division of the Denver Department of Public Works at the city's Havana Street nursery Saturday, May 2. It will be available on a first-come basis for Denver (only) residents in quantities up to one cubic yard, about what it would take to fill a standard pickup truck. Recyclers without a truck should bring their own containers. For information call 640-1675.

## Take the Trolley to DBG

A new \$1 all-day pass sponsored by RTD and Colfax on the Hill takes visitors to the Denver Botanic Gardens and other major Denver cultural venues, saving riders hours of driving and hunting for parking spaces.

The Cultural Connection Trolley is comprised of two buses that run every half hour from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and hourly from 6 to 9 p.m. seven days a week, stopping at or near the DCPA, Colorado Convention Center, Visitors Bureau, Denver Mint, Denver Art Museum, Main Public Library, State Historical Museum, State Capitol Building, RTD Civic Center, Molly Brown House, Denver Zoo and Denver Museum of Natural History in addition to DBG.

Purchase tickets from RTD or on the trolley. For information: 832-2086.

## Month Celebrates American Wetlands

May has been set aside to celebrate some of the most important and interesting natural areas in the nation, its wetlands. These shallow water areas, whether small bodies of water or where larger bodies meet the shore, are more than habitats for fascinating, specialized plants and animals. They also play an enormous role in the major courses of weather and geologic evolution and, consequently, are of great impact on our civilization.

Because they continue to suffer great destruction and abuse, wetlands protection is a significant environmental issue, though their many, varied values and functions are not always recognized.

They provide food and shelter to countless animals, including many fishes, birds, reptiles and mammals. Forty-five percent of the animals and twenty-six percent of the plants on the federal list of threatened and endangered species depend on wetlands to complete their life cycles successfully.

Stream and river shores provide habitat and migration routes for wildlife; these linear corridors serve to create bridges within and between habitats. Such connectivity helps increase or maintain species diversity, increase populations, maintain genetic variation and provide predator-escape cover.

Ponds, marshes, bogs and shorelines act as natural sponges that absorb flooding water and release it slowly, minimizing downstream property damage and other habitat destruction. Wetlands plants grip the soil with their roots, acting as buffers against erosion, and wetlands lessen wave action and slow water currents.

And these areas add immeasurably to our quality of life, from boating to waterscape architecture, from art and literature to commercial fisheries, from hiking to birding and other nature observation.

Join Denver Botanic Gardens in celebrating National Wetlands Month in the best way possible, by visiting the ones at Chatfield Arboretum, taking time to observe and appreciate not only its plant and animal inhabitants, but its place in nature and our lives.

## Give Membership to Mom or Dad

If you're looking for a Mother's or Father's Day gift that will be meaningful and useful the year around, call the DBG membership office at 370-8029.

Many Gardens memberships are given as thoughtful gifts, and the membership office often hears how much they are appreciated.

## 'Majestic Beauties' Late May Iris Show

"Colorado's Majestic Beauties," a salute to our state's "fourteener" mountain peaks, will be at the Gardens Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31. It is the annual exhibition by Region 20 of the American Iris Society.

The show features the region's finest iris, with groomed horticultural blooming stalks and popular English boxes illustrating special group collections. Artistic arrangements will conjure images of mountain crests and alpine meadows accented with iris blossoms.

Members will field questions about the society and conduct a continuous seminar on iris growing and display. Bring pencil and paper to jot down the names of favorite flowers, so you can look for them at the society's July sale.

When you come to visit the show, you're encouraged to stroll to the center of Denver Botanic Gardens to view its collection of contemporary bearded iris hybrids in bloom. The Rock Alpine Garden displays iris species, America's largest collection of these interesting plants; though usually earlier than the tall bearded iris, many should still be in bloom.

For information and show entry schedules, call either of the show co-chairmen, Tim Kuesel at 420-6806 or Dave Miller at 277-0358.

*Tall bearded iris will be in bloom at the Gardens from late May through early June.*







## Discover the Excitement of AmeriFlora '92

Join your fellow DBG members September 17-21, for a trip to Columbus, Ohio for AmeriFlora '92, the first international floral and garden exposition ever to be held in the United States. The festival, which is the premiere event commemorating the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Jubilee, is an unforgettable encounter with floral and plant beauty, landscape design, education, live entertainment, cuisine and the cultural aspects of America's blended ethnic heritage.

Located on 160 wooded acres near downtown Columbus, the festival includes 88 acres of lavish and ever-changing gardens. Built at a cost of 94 million dollars, the event will showcase gardening as never before seen in this country.

Excursions to explore the rich horticultural & cultural diversity of Ohio will also be included. The group will stay at the historic ★★★★★ Worthington Inn.



The tour will be led by DBG travel chairman, Barbara Baldwin and will be accompanied by DBG director of horticulture, James Henrich.

Total cost is \$940, including airfare, based on double occupancy.

For more information and a detailed itinerary, please call Rhea Brown at 370-8030.

## 43rd Annual Plant & Used Book Sale! May 8 & 9 • 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAY

### Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☉ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the *Spring Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- |                                                         |                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>Sensory Tour Guide Training</i> *                  | 18 <i>Drawing from Nature</i> *                           |
| 2, 3 Front Range Antique Power Show ☉                   | <i>Gourmet Garden Oils &amp; Vinegars</i>                 |
| 2 <i>Landscape Materials: Trees for Your Yard</i>       | <i>Sprouts with Sprouts</i> *                             |
| 3 <i>Rocky Mountain Arsenal Field Trip</i>              | 19 <i>Rock Alpine Garden Walk</i>                         |
| 5 <i>National Center for Atmospheric Research Tour</i>  | 20 <i>Intermediate Ikebana Lessons</i> *                  |
| 7 The Flowering of Denver Pre-Sale Party                | <i>Watercolor Painting</i> *                              |
| Denver Botanic Gardens Closed                           | 21 <i>Natural-style Flower Arranging for Spring</i>       |
| <i>Planning Your Home Landscape: Do It Yourself</i> * ☉ | 22 <i>Miniature Roses: Cuttings Workshop</i>              |
| 8, 9 Denver Botanic Gardens Plant & Used Book Sale      | 23 <i>Ecology &amp; Flora of North Table Mountain</i>     |
| 9 <i>Kidding Around: Birds of Prey</i>                  | <i>Kidding Around: Clever Containers</i>                  |
| 10 <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i>                         | 25 <i>Memorial Day Bike Hike &amp; Picnic</i> ☉           |
| 12 <i>A Bluegrass Beauty</i> *                          | 27 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Morgan Wheelock,              |
| 13 <i>History of Roses</i>                              | <i>Unseen Dimensions in Landscape Architecture</i>        |
| 14 <i>Marketing Your Botanical Illustrations</i> *      | <i>Beginning Bird Watching</i> * ☉                        |
| 14, 15 National Association of Olmstead Parks Symposium | <i>Guide Training for Outdoor &amp; Preschool Tours</i> * |
| 16 <i>Backyard Composting</i>                           | <i>Miniature Roses: Cuttings Workshop</i>                 |
| <i>Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour</i>                | 28 <i>Cacti &amp; Other Succulents for Beginners</i>      |
| <i>The Portable Garden</i>                              | 30 Chatfield Arboretum Free Day                           |
| <i>Tree Walk at Washington Park</i>                     | <i>Colorado Wildflower Identification</i> *               |
| <i>Wildflowers of the Plains</i>                        | <i>The Delightful Daylilies</i>                           |
| 17 <i>African Violets for Serious Enthusiasts</i>       | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i>                              |
| <i>Pizza &amp; Pastas</i>                               | <i>Wildflower Hike</i> ☉                                  |
| <i>Traveler's Tree Tales: From the Mouth of Deer</i> ☉  | 30, 31 Iris Society Show                                  |
|                                                         | 31 <i>Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour</i>               |





## Webb Appoints Two to DBG Board

Denver Mayor Wellington Webb has filled two appointed positions on the Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees. Joining the board are former Denver District Court Judge Roger Cisneros and surgeon Bernard F. Gipson, Sr.

Cisneros was appointed to the district court bench in 1978. He was a state senator during the '60s and '70s, and has served in numerous civic capacities on the board of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, as president of the United Latin American Organization, as president of the Denver Businessmens Club, as a member of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and as a founding board member of Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA).

Cisneros has long worked to promote the civic, economic and political advancement of Hispanics.

Gipson is a member of the medical staffs of most of the hospitals in the Denver metropolitan area. He retired as clinical associate professor of surgery at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and was the first black to serve as chairman of the Mercy Medical Center department of surgery. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the National Medical Association and of the American Medical Association.

Gipson has been one of the prime moving forces in helping to integrate hospital staffs and in bringing black physicians and surgeons into the mainstream of medical practice.

The DBG board is comprised of 28 term trustees, each elected for three years, six life trustees, two mayoral appointees and seven ex-officio trustees. Members serve without compensation.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

### Denver Botanic Gardens June 1992 Number 92-6

## 'Discover America's Plants! 1492-1992'

Denver Botanic Gardens will commemorate the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, 500 years ago, by celebrating plants from the Americas that have changed the world.

Tomatoes, potatoes, peanuts, marigolds and quinine are just a few examples of native plants that American civilizations have given to the rest of the world. From avocados to zinnias, with chilies, chocolate, petunias and pineapples in between, the plants of this hemisphere have enriched our diets and lives. In fact, the spread of plants such as these is perhaps the most enduring legacy of the Age of Discovery.

When you're at the Gardens watch for special quincentenary labels on American plants in the conservatory and on the grounds. You will also find new handouts and family activity sheets with information on the cultivation and use of plants by Native Americans.

#### Display Gardens:

**Southwestern Native Peoples Garden:** This interesting garden offers a glimpse of early America's agricultural heirlooms and demonstrates the traditional Southwestern methods by which they have been grown for a thousand years. Look for Navajo blue corn, Hopi black dye sunflowers, devil's claw, amaranths and various gourds.

**Vegetable Demonstration Garden:** To illustrate the origins of many of our vegetable crops, this garden has been divided by geographical area. Represented are Africa and the southern Mediterranean basin, western and southern Asia, and Europe. The largest section points up the amazing contribution of the Western Hemisphere and

*Continued on page 6*

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## From the Executive Director

Over the past several months, we have engaged in a series of activities aimed at finding out from you, our members, what you like about your membership and what you would like changed.

The consensus is overwhelming. You are pleased with your membership benefits, you think the Denver Botanic Gardens is one of the key institutions that make Denver a wonderful place to live. You believe the Gardens deserves your support, and you are very proud of what we do in terms of educational programs and horticulture.

But you also would be interested in a few more "special" programs or benefits for members and guests. Louise Connor, director of membership and development, and Dr. Richard Koeppe, chairman of the trustee's committee on membership and development, are reviewing all member benefits in light of what you have told us in focus groups and during telephone interviews.

We also are reviewing the times we offer classes, our publications, and members special events so that you gain the most advantage possible from them. Thanks to your candor and cooperation when we have asked your opinion, I believe we can have the most exciting member program possible.

—Richard H. Daley

California poppies are a bright addition to wildflower or prairie gardens in our semi-arid region.



## Tributes

**In memory of Lillian Amer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Markson

**In memory of Mary Jolly**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ferguson

**In memory of George Kelly**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Phipps

**In memory of Lawrence A. Long**  
Ms. Margaret Anthes  
Mrs. Pierpont Fuller  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Gates  
Mrs. George Gibson  
Ms. E. Sydney Glick  
Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant  
Mr. D. Deane Hall, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott D. Hannah  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kirk  
Ms. Marion Miller  
Ms. Betty Nicola  
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley T. Smith  
Mrs. Katherine Stapleton  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter A. Steele  
Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Washburne  
Ms. Ellen K. Waterman  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Yates

**In memory of Elvin "Al" Potarf**  
Dr. & Mrs. Harold E. Most

### Contributors to the Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Fund

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Miss Carol L. Bachman  
Ms. Jennifer J. Burgher  
Mrs. Richard M. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Grant Downer  
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## From the Editor:

About one-and-one-half percent of our members responded to the questionnaire seeking opinions on this newsletter. The nearly unanimous feeling of our members is, they like the *Green Thumb News* just about the way it is.

You will see a few, subtle changes with this issue. And in the future we hope to bring you more practical, knees-in-the-dirt gardening information. But, by and large, what you see is what you'll get.

Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions. They are always welcome.

—Larry Latta

## Employee of the Month

Our ambassador on the switchboard, receptionist Clarice Owen, is Denver Botanic Gardens' April employee of the month.

Cheerful, upbeat and a tireless DBG booster, Clarice adds a bit of hot sauce to all our lives. But lately she's been especially effective in her daily reminders, *by example*, that 1992 is the "Year of the Visitor." And she shows us what customer service is all about by being the perfect role model on the switchboard.

Congratulations, Clarice.

## Green Thumb News Number 92-6 • June 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206  
Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033  
Deadline for August issue: June 19

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





The 1992 KCFR/Botanic Gardens Concert Series gets underway Thursday, June 18, with Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, in an exciting, eclectic jazz-oriented evening, heavy on the banjo.

The twelve-night series in Denver Botanic Gardens' amphitheatre is sponsored by Norwest Banks, recent successor to the United Banks.

This year, food, concert sweatshirts, T-shirts and stadium mugs will be available for the first time. Look for them in the lobby court.

The number of tickets has been reduced in 1992 to ensure your greater comfort. Also, to take the worry out of parking, a free shuttle bus will provide service from the Calvary Temple parking lot, Alameda and University boulevards.

You can order tickets for this or other single concerts, or for the entire series, by mail. Prices and other details are in the special brochure mailed to members in early May. Remember to take advantage of this year's increased member's discount. If you would like another brochure, call 370-8015. (Please, do not call to order tickets.)

The other performances in the series are Oscar Hernandez, June 25; Michael Doucet & Bousoleil, July 9 and 10; The Denver Brass, July 16; The Gospel at Colonus, July 23 and 24; The Ensemble of Santa Fe, July 30; Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens, August 7; Strunz and Farah with UFS, August 14; and The Modern Jazz Quartet, September 3 and 4.

## Pace Warehouse Brings 'Listen to the Gardens'

Three Young Audiences concerts will be performed in the DBG amphitheatre this summer. Titled "Listen to the Gardens," the series is sponsored by Pace Membership Warehouse.

The first concert, June 30, will feature children's performer Red Grammer. July 21 will be a celebrity presentation of the children's music classic Peter and the Wolf. The season closer, August 11, will present the Queen City Jazz Band.

Tickets for these all-family concerts are \$5 per person; the series is \$12. Pre-performance picnics are welcome. For ticket information call 825-3465.



## Guild Gift Brings Blossoms to DBG

A generous donation by the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild will help carpet the Gardens with blossoms this summer.

According to Executive Director Richard Daley, a major portion of the \$10,000 gift will support the annual displays along the north-south pathway east of the amphitheater. Part will be used for a pilot program to replace the Gardens' diamond-shaped plant identification labels with rectangular ones capable of imparting more information. The new labels will first be seen later this year in the DBG Herb Garden, which is supported primarily by the Guild's fund-raising and gardening efforts.

With this gift, Guild president Sara Mann Moore noted that, since it's inception and its first donations of a few hundred dollars a year, the organization has raised over \$147,900 for the Gardens.

She also expressed the Guild's desire to recruit new members to assist with its fund-raising and volunteer programs. Anyone interested in helping with its projects should contact the new president, Gray Josephs, who takes office June 10. Her number is 698-2348.

## Sokolov Lecture Continues Bonfils-Stanton Series

Food historian Raymond Sokolov will present the third lecture of the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series Wednesday, June 24 in John C. Mitchell II Hall. His presentation will be an important contribution, also, to the Gardens' "Discover America's Plants!" observance.

The author of *Why We Eat What We Eat* will trace the fascinating interchange of foods between the Eastern and Western hemispheres that took place as a result of the European contact with the Americas that began 500 years ago. His talk is titled "Columbus the Unwitting." The immense importance of this wonderful interchange was largely unforeseen by the Genoese navigator, who may have been little motivated by beneficence toward the world's eaters.

The talk will be given at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m. Tickets and information are available in the education office, 370-8020.



Above: Future Man, Howard Levy, Bela Fleck and Victor Wooten of the Flecktones. Below: Raymond Sokolov.





*Rose 'Amber Queen', a 1988 AARS winner, continues to garner awards in Europe.*

## Bonsai Show To Feature 'Ancients' Father's Day Weekend, June 20 & 21

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will stage its annual Father's Day weekend exhibition at the Gardens June 20 and 21. Members will display their miniaturized trees in John C. Mitchell II Hall from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, and to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

The most fascinating attraction of the show will be the "ancients," Rocky Mountain ponderosa pines and other species, some of which are over 400 years old. Though younger, some of the bonsai apples, maples, junipers, flowering azaleas and other plants have been under cultivation and meticulous training for dozens of years.

The art of bonsai—growing trees in pots—originated in China, but was elevated to its present aesthetic achievement by the Japanese. Because of the many Japanese who live in Colorado—and the many Occidental students of their culture—Denver

boasts some of the finest bonsai collections in North America. This exhibition is the largest in the Rocky Mountain region.

The show will include six one-hour demonstrations in classroom C: Saturday at 11 a.m., Styling a Collected Ponderosa Pine; 1 p.m., Ficus for Indoor Bonsai; and 3 p.m., Creating an Evergreen Forest. Sunday demonstrations are: 11 a.m., Saikei (Rock Landscape) Using Junipers; 1 p.m., How do you Keep Them Small?; and 3 p.m., Wiring and Trimming Bonsai.

The featured artist of the show, winner of the Bob Kataoka Memorial Award, for long-term service and the quality of his work, is Larry Jaekel.

There is no charge for the show, other than the regular Gardens' gate fee information call program chairman Owen Collins, 796-9779.

When the roses in DBG's May Bonfils Stanton Memorial Rose Garden are in full bloom, it's a beautiful, fragrant time at 1005 York Street. This year the Gardens is recognizing this most cherished of flowers by celebrating Rose Week, June 20 to 27.

Saturday, June 20, homeowners can come to the rose garden to meet a specially convened faculty of Gardens' horticultural staff members and visiting rose experts from the Denver Rose Society. Information that will help produce remarkable roses will be given.

Monday evening, June 22, noted garden designer and floral arranger Diane Grant will give a free demonstration, "Easy Arranging Techniques with Roses," in John C. Mitchell II Hall. She will show how to use roses and other summer flowers in your home. The proprietor of TCR Limited, Grant studied floral and garden design in Europe and has worked with such distinguished artists as John Brookes, James van Sweden and Rosemary Verey. No reservations are needed, but seating will be available on a first-come basis. The demonstration will be at 7 p.m. The Gardens' regular gate fee will be in effect for nonmembers.

However, all week long, people with "rose" in their name will be honored with free admission to the Gardens. Melrose? Rosenberg? Or simply Rose? Perhaps Rosario? If you have friends with a rose in their names, let them know of this unique opportunity. What's in a name, indeed? During the Gardens' Rose Week it may earn a free visit when DBG's roses are putting on their most beautiful show of the year.

## Species, Old Garden Roses Displayed

Dozens of species roses and old garden roses will be displayed for your enjoyment and information in the Gardens' John C. Mitchell II Hall June 6, courtesy of members of the Denver Rose Society.

These experts will be on hand also to discuss how to grow these old-fashioned beauties and where to buy them.

The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 424-3942.



## Water Garden Society Holds Plant Auction June 14

The Colorado Water Garden Society will hold its annual water plant sale and tropical waterlily auction at the Gardens Sunday, June 14.

The plant sale will be from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The tropicals will be auctioned at noon, with a waterlily planting demonstration afterward.

Activities are in the patio near the York Street entrance and in classroom C. For more information, call Rose Swenby, chairman, 444-4525.

## Members' Barbecue at Chatfield in July

Western barbecue and country style entertainment will highlight the annual Chatfield Arboretum picnic for members and their guests Saturday, July 25 from 4 to 8 p.m.

While you're at the picnic you can tour nature trails and wetlands, study the historic farm buildings and machinery, enjoy the 1870s Deer Creek School or watch busy bees making honey. They're all part of the fun at the Arboretum for families to share.

Plan now for this pleasant evening with other members of the Gardens. You will find more information and a registration form in the *July Green Thumb News*.

## Staff Recognized for Service

Fourteen staff members reached milestones in May.

Librarian Solange Gignac and gardener Richard Martinelli marked over 20 years of service to the Gardens. Operations supervisor Gary Davis; membership coordinator Syd Glick; plant propagator Andrew Pierce; public information officer Larry Latta; heating, ventilation and air conditioning mechanic Alan Rumpeltes; and gardeners Frank Garcia, Mike Greene and Joe Tomcik have served over 15 years. Japanese garden specialist Kai Kawahara, curator of rock alpine Panayoti Kelaidis, grounds supervisor Joann Narverud, senior secretary Fran Regner and gardener Karen Trout marked 10 years.

Thanks to all, for over 210 years of service, helping Denver Botanic Gardens grow.

## June Celebration to Spotlight Rock Alpine Garden

Denver Botanic Gardens' world class Rock Alpine Garden will be spotlighted during "Alpine Celebration," a special weekend of activities June 6 and 7. This is when the garden's collection of alpine plants generally conceded to be the finest in North America—will be at its interesting, beautiful best.

The Gardens' internationally renowned rock garden curator Panayoti Kelaidis will present brief lectures and demonstrations each day on alpine flora and their culture. He will be assisted by Sandy Snyder, Rock Alpine Garden horticulturist. Both have lectured throughout the United States and have written articles for major rock gardening and plant magazines.

Gardens' guides and members of the Rocky Mountain chapter of the American Rock Garden Society will be on hand to point out interesting plants and other features of the garden, and special handouts will illuminate the gardens' plants and the art of rock gardening.

Saturday to give photographers a rare opportunity to shoot the Rock Alpine Garden in early morning light, the Gardens will open at 6 a.m. A professional photographer will be on hand to assist amateur photographers.

There is no fee for "Alpine Celebration" beyond the regular \$4 gate fee for nonmembers.

## Traveller's Tree Tales Continue

"Why Plants Have Flat Leaves" will be answered by storyteller Cherie Karo Schwartz Sunday, June 14, as the Gardens' series of family-oriented story hours, *Traveler's Tree Tales* continues. It is at 2:30 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

There is no charge for the *Traveler's Tree Tales* except for the regular gate fee for nonmembers. No reservations are required. For more information on this series, call 370-8020.

## Longer Hours, Extra Gate

Through Labor Day the Gardens will remain open until 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. The library will be open until 8 on Mondays. Also, the Gardens' entrance gate from Cheesman Park will be open weekends in June, on a trial basis.

## Summer Watercolor Show at Gardens

5

The Colorado Watercolor Society will present its annual water media exhibition at Denver Botanic Gardens Monday, June 29, through Monday, July 6.

Approximately 70 paintings will be hung, depicting a variety of subjects and techniques. Additional matted works will be available.

The opening reception will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on June 29. Refreshments will be served.

The show will be open each day from 9 a.m. until the Gardens closes. For more information call Patricia Barr Clarke, 377-5413.

*'Market Scene' watercolor by Trudi Hacker, above, and 'Columbine' by Jean Cole.*





## 6 For a Successful Plant & Used Book Sale: Thank You

The trustees and staff of Denver Botanic Gardens sends a big thank-you to everyone involved in the 43rd Annual Plant & Used Book Sale.

Successful events don't just happen. They takes many hours, hard work and a generous community. The May sale received all of that.

Special thanks to:

Michael Ebbs, chairman, who made great improvements in the signage and plant identification. He also kept everyone on their toes and everything running smoothly.

Debbie Davis, the 1992 cochairman, for her calming spirit when things got hectic, and for her creativity.

To all 58 division chairmen and cochairmen, for a full year of endless cataloguing, purchasing, sign-making, volunteer recruiting, meetings—and more.

To our underwriters and sponsors whose contributions were crucial to the financial success of the event.

### Underwriters

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Puttin' On the Printz  
Savageau Gallery  
USWest  
Waste Magement of Denver  
Western Waste Industries

## 'Discover America's Plants! 1492-1992'



*Continued from page 1*

includes peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, corn, beans and squashes, among others.

**Aztec Garden:** A blaze of color, this new display reveals the ornamental bounty of Mexico. The focus is a vine-covered square, and the garden takes advantage of the reflections from the nearby waterway as a reminder of the floating gardens of Tenochtitlán.

### Special Activities

**"Columbus the Unwitting":** Raymond Sokolov's Bonfils-Stanton lecture June 24 will be one of the most entertaining events of the summer. However Sokolov's perspective will be a solidly educational experience as well. (Please see the article on p. 3.)

**"In Search of Spices":** Sundays at 2 p.m., from June 7 through November 29, specially trained guides will conduct conservatory tours. These guided tours will delve into the romantic histories of the conservatory's tropical spice plants and give you a chance to not only learn their origins but — close up and hands-on — experience their delicious aromas and flavors. There is no charge for these tours, though nonmembers must pay the Gardens' regular gate fees. Groups of 10 or more may make arrangements for this tour at other hours by calling 370-8020.

**"Kidding Around":** The Gardens' popular Saturday programs for families will include special sessions on all-American plants. These activities are included with regular admission.

June 13 "Kidding Around" is at Chatfield Arboretum; thereafter the activities will be at 1005 York St. the fourth Saturday of the month. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information on this program, call 370-8020.

**American Indian Sunflower Harvest Festival:** The roles of native plants in various American Indian cultures will be celebrated at the Gardens in a festive two-day event packed with demonstrations, workshops, music and dancing. Many of the activities will occur in or near the Southwestern Native Peoples Garden. Members will receive a brochure.

**Pumpkin Festival:** Does it surprise you that this annual DBG event is a natural for inclusion in the year's celebration of the plants of the Americas? Native Americans had grown and developed pumpkins into a myriad of forms and flavors well before the arrival of Columbus. The Pumpkin Festival will arrive in two parts: The Pumpkin Patch Saturday, October 10, is a family oriented day of rural harvest activities at Chatfield Arboretum. Then the Pumpkin Art Contest and Display will be at 1005 York Street October 24 and 25.

More details of these many Columbus quincentenary programs will be relayed in a special mailing and in future issues of the *Green Thumb News*. Plan now for an enjoyable, educational year at the Gardens, as we "Celebrate America's Plants."

*Plants of the 'Southwest Native Peoples Garden' are grown with traditional methods of the American Indians from whose lands they come.*



# Three DBG Gardens Reflect International Styles

7

*For the benefit of our many new members, this article continues a series of articles on the histories of the various gardens that comprise Denver Botanic Gardens at York Street.*

—Ed.

Along the west side of the Gardens are our oldest garden, the Gates Memorial Garden, and two of our major theme gardens, the Rock Alpine Garden and the Japanese Garden, *Shofu-en*.

The comparatively youthful Denver Botanic Gardens is fortunate to exhibit a small part of the vast legacy of the city's most prominent early park planner and landscape designer, S.R. DeBoer. He designed the Gates Memorial Garden, which in 1961 was the first permanent planting at 1005 York St.

The Garden was created as a memorial to civic leader Charles C. Gates, and at Mrs. Gates' suggestion the garden was designed to reinterpret the mountain atmosphere around their beloved family home, the Chateau, in Bear Creek Canyon. DeBoer had also designed the gardens at The Chateau.

In the Gates Memorial Garden at DBG he strove to fashion a massive display appropriate to the stature of a man he liked and admired. The east side of the garden features a rugged cliff of boulders mirrored in a serene pool of water. Through the center of this scene winds a shady path that offers opportunities for rest and meditation, in a setting of native and introduced plants suitable for regional landscapes.

The Rock Alpine Garden, like an entire botanic garden in miniature, is comprised of a number of smaller gardens that recreate various soil conditions of tundra and high mountain environments around the world. Initial plans for the garden were prepared by the landscape architecture firm, EDAW, Inc., in 1976. The site of the garden occupies about an acre of land in the far southwest corner of Denver Botanic Gardens.

Although the tradition of rock gardens is represented throughout the country and the world, staff and planners of the DBG project felt that Denver's altitude and climate offered the opportunity to develop a premier example. More than five hundred tons of granite, sandstone, limestone, tufa and pumice were brought in to form the gardens' diverse habitats.

Soil composition and acidity or alkalinity, subsurface water and drainage, and even exposure to the sun were carefully planned for the moraine mound, scree mound, fell field, north ledge, limestone cliffs, woodland garden, lower and upper meadows, and the other distinctive areas that comprise the garden.

Initial plantings were made in the summer of 1980; the Rock Alpine Garden and the Alpine House were formally dedicated on June 1, 1981.

Today the garden includes nearly 3,000 different taxa. Among the intriguing plant forms and foliage, flowers bloom in every season. Its planners and builders have been justified: World renown came nearly immediately to this unique garden.

*Shofu-en*, an intimate stroll garden, is filled with traditional Japanese symbolism, but reflects a Colorado aesthetic. "Crane Island" is located in the pond with two smaller is-

lands—actually, large rocks—representing the Tortoise (west island) and the Treasure Ship (east island). The crane and the tortoise are Japanese symbols of longevity. The garden's handsome character pines also represent longevity, and happiness. They were collected and donated by the Denver Bonsai Club.

The Japanese art and architecture that adorn the garden are authentic. The most prominent is the tea house. It was built in Japan, disassembled, the parts numbered, then transported and reassembled here by eight Japanese craftsmen in 14 days. The tea house is used for periodically scheduled Japanese tea ceremonies, rituals to refresh the body and spirit. Indeed, *Shofu-en* is entirely created to refresh and renew us, through celebration of the beauty of nature.

—Ken Slump is the DBG horticulturist in charge of special projects.



*The main gate of Shofu-en, DBG's exquisite Japanese Garden.*



Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

909 York Street

Denver, Colorado 80206

303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

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One year after its dedication, the DBG Rock Alpine Garden was chosen as a field trip destination during the American Rock Garden Society annual meeting.



## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☉ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the Spring and SUMMER *Education Programs* quarterlies, or call 370-8020.

### June

- 2 *Mountain-high Gardening* \*
- 4 *Gourmet Garden Oils & Vinegars*
- 6 ☉ *Backyard Composting*  
*Old Garden Rose Display*
- 8 *Beyond the May Planting Frenzy*
- 10 *Advanced Floral Design Techniques* \*
- 11 *Beginning Flower Photography* \*
- 13 *Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour*  
*Trough Garden Workshop* \*  
*Kidding Around: Fly It!*  
☉ *Chatfield Arboretum Free Day*
- 14 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*  
*Traveler's Tree Tales: Why Plants Have Flat Leaves*  
*Colorado Water Garden Society Rare Plant Auction*
- 15 *Natural-style Flower Arranging for Spring*
- 17 *The Kitchen Herb Garden* \*  
*Rocky Mountain Arsenal Field Trip*
- 18 *What's Eating My Garden?*  
*Concert: Bela Fleck & the Flecktones*
- 20 ☉ *Beginning Watercolor Painting: An Introduction to Landscapes* \*  
*Local Wild Plants for Food & Medicine*
- 20, 21 *Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show*
- 21 ☉ *Father's Day at Chatfield Arboretum*
- 24 *Beginning Bonsai* \*  
*Columbus the Unwitting*
- 25 *Concert: Oscar Hernandez*
- 27 *Herb Wreath for the Kitchen*

### ☉ *Local Wild Plants for Food & Medicine*

*Kidding Around: Marigolds & Morning Glories*

28 *Behind-the-scenes Greenhouse Tour*

*Classic Tuscan Fruits & Vegetables*

*Japanese Tea Ceremony*

30 *Young Audiences Concert*

### July

- 1-5 *Watercolor Society Show & Sale*
- 3 *Chatfield Arboretum Tours*
- 6 *Arranging Lessons with Fresh Flowers*
- 8 *Wildflower Photography Lecture*  
*Alpine Ecology*
- 9, 10 *Concert: Michael Doucet & Beausoleil*
- 11, 12 *Wildflower Photography Workshops*
- 11 *Daylily Society Show*  
*Chatfield Arboretum Free Day*
- 6 *Arranging Lessons with Fresh Flowers*
- 15 *Beginning Papermaking*  
*Raised Bed Garden Design*
- 16 *Introduction to the Endangered Species Garden*  
*Roxborough State Park Field Trip*
- 17 *Tools for Easier Gardening*  
*Wildflower Hike at Green Mountain Open Space*
- 21 *Young Audiences Concert*
- 22 *Free Day*
- 23, 24 *Concert: The Gospel At Colonus*
- 25 *Iris Society Rhizome Sale*  
*Kidding Around: A Tale of Two Tubers*
- 27-31 *Glass At The Gardens*





## Rediscovering Denver Botanic Gardens: A Plan for Future Generations

Denver Botanic Gardens is preparing to enter the 21st century with an ambitious blueprint for developing its site at 1005 York St.

At its May 26 meeting, the DBG Board of Trustees approved a new master plan—two years in the making—for the Gardens' future. Based upon the previous plan of 1977, and building upon many of the Gardens' existing, highly acclaimed accomplishments, the plan is expected to take 20 years to realize.

"This is an enormously important step in defining the future of the Denver Botanic Gardens and will truly place our institution among the premier public gardens in America," noted board president Newell M. Grant.

The plan will simplify and integrate the gardens to eliminate the current "patchwork" feeling of isolated plant groups in separate areas, remove trial and demonstration areas to make room for exciting visitor-oriented displays and create three major exhibit zones: teaching gardens, display gardens and environmental gardens. Although some present features will be enlarged, all development will be contained within the Gardens' current boundaries.

Board secretary Deane Hall, who chaired the board's planning committee, noted that the long process leading up to the new plan began with a meeting of community leaders. After members of this Community Advisory Group voiced the desires and concerns of their various constituents, an advisory council of experts from leading botanic gardens around North America was formed to evaluate Denver Botanic Gardens' current facilities and programs.

After interviewing staff members, they presented the DBG board with suggestions for the Gardens to re-plan its practices in horticultural design and interpretation, visitor services, educational programs, and facilities and collections management. Hall commended the other DBG trustees and the staff for "their tremendous work, which helped the consultants arrive at such comprehensive, forward-looking recommendations."

The job of working these exhaustive reviews into a state-of-the-industry plan was turned over to Environmental Planning and Design of Pittsburgh, a firm which has designed or been instrumental in redesigning the country's foremost botanic gardens.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

### Denver Botanic Gardens July 1992 Number 92-7



*The DBG water-plants highlight a summer visit to the Gardens.*

#### *Inside:*

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*Concerts*  
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By the year 2000 Denver Botanic Gardens expects to nearly double the number of visitors it attracts—to almost half-a-million a year. In order

to achieve that goal, and to accommodate its constituents with attractive displays and high-quality educational

*Continued on page 5*



## From the Executive Director

The approval of a new 20-year master plan is a major step forward for the Denver Botanic Gardens and represents a real commitment on the part of our trustees to make this the finest botanic gardens in the region and a leader among all gardens.

The plan is truly visionary and represents the insights of the trustees, staff, community leaders and the design firm, Environmental Planning and Design.

When the trustees selected Environmental Planning and Design they made a commitment to go with the very best. This firm has designed more botanic gardens than all other firms combined, including the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Chicago Botanic Garden, two of the foremost gardens in the country.

The plan will require major donor support, of course, and I believe that as the individual features of the plan are described and selected for development, the community will enthusiastically support them.

Fundamentally, the plan takes the very best of the features here and extends that quality and excitement to every area, and it solves the very real needs for adequate parking and visitor services.

Altogether, the plan will make the Denver Botanic Gardens a year-round cultural, horticultural, educational and environmental organization of truly national stature and prominence.

—Richard H. Daley

## Tributes

### In memory of Lois M. Durkin

Ms. Shirley L. Hankins

### In memory of Gloria Falkenberg

Ms. Geraldine Brimmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mackintosh Brown  
City Floral, Inc.  
Ms. Caroline Stafford Cross &  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Earl  
Dr. William Gambill  
Ms. Martha Griffith Hull  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kosanke  
Mrs. & Mrs. Edward Levy

### In memory of Marie K. Hillock

Ms. Linda Combellick Malles

### In memory of George W. Kelly

Ms. Julia Kassanchuk

### In memory of Margaret Nevans

Mr. & Mrs. Otto Morz

### In memory of Maxine Stein

Countess Henrietta S. von Moy

### In memory of David Trammel

Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Naster

### In memory of

Anne Van Schooneveld

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gaunt

### In memory of Alex H. Warner

Mrs. Alex H. Warner

### In memory of Allen Whitaker

Ms. Shirley Baker

### In memory of Mildred Yrissari

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton

## Denver Botanic Gardens Four Seasons Affiliates

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## Employee of the Month

In 1984, on very short notice, Joann Narverud was assigned staff coordinator and liaison for the Plant & Used Book Sale. In spite of many obstacles, Joann took charge and carried out the many new duties in a professional manner. Joann continues to be the behind-the-scenes engineer of the sale, the largest fund-raising event at the Gardens, and each year she gets it better organized and more efficient than the year before. Her proficiency in this enormous task makes it easier for everybody else.

Joann, we thank you and salute you as June employee of the month!

## Green Thumb News Number 92-7 • July 1992

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Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Daylily Show Brings 'Summer Pleasures'

The annual daylily show and sale hosted by the regional chapter of the American Hemerocallis Society will be at the Gardens Sunday, July 12. Titled "Summer Pleasures," it opens at 1 p.m. and closes at 4:45 p.m. Before the show you are urged to stroll through the Gardens' daylily collection, near the center of the grounds. Although daylilies, as a group, have a long summer blooming season, July is their finest month.

Indoors, artistic arrangements will compete for theme prizes and cut scapes of single open blossoms will vie for horticultural awards. For more information call Sabine Baur, 755-1108, or Charlie Baker, 757-8703.

## Glass Sparkles at the Gardens

The "Glass at the Gardens" exhibition and sale by the Colorado Glass Arts Fellowship will occupy the DBG Lobby Court and John C. Mitchell II Hall July 30 through August 9.

This annual show is unusual, in that it accepts only works that have not been publicly exhibited before. Consequently it reveals the latest intentions of the accomplished artists whose pieces are displayed.

Both a people's choice and a botanical award will be given.

"Glass at the Gardens" dispels the notion that the only art created in this medium is "stained" glass. Although many fine examples of leaded glass, from traditional to precedent-setting, will be exhibited, other techniques will be represented, such as slumped, fused, etched and hand-painted glass. Works range from fine art to knickknacks, from humorously representational to abstract.

The show is open each day from 9 a.m. until the Gardens closes, except the final day, when it closes at 4:45 p.m.

## Free Days at DBG & Chatfield

July offers two opportunities to share your membership in the Gardens with a friend.

Saturday, July 11, is a free day at Chatfield Arboretum and Wednesday, July 22, is a free day at York Street. The admission waiver is for all Colorado residents. Both locations will be at the height of their summertime beauty.

## Christian Recognized for Chatfield Work

3

The Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees voted in May to honor Dr. Wayne Christian, retired director of the Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum, by naming the Chatfield office building the "Wayne G. Christian Administrative Center."

The resolution was in gratitude for Christian's many accomplishments on behalf of the developing Arboretum.

As a volunteer in the 1970s, Christian was chairman of the committee charged with locating the site for the arboretum. The committee negotiated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City and County of Denver to assign the land to Denver Botanic Gardens to create an arboretum.

After several years in private industry he returned to manage the arboretum for "one silver dollar a year." He later became its regularly salaried director.

Christian's own generosity was responsible for much-needed office furniture and equipment and he inspired others to follow his lead. He created an enthusiastic body of volunteers to restore or improve the original farm buildings and Deer Creek School, to serve as visitor guides and to work in many capacities on behalf of the arboretum.

The supportive relationship he developed with the communities around the arboretum has been invaluable to its rapid development into a superb nature center and museum of early farm life in eastern Colorado. Thousands of schoolchildren from the region visit the arboretum each year. This is its third season open for general admission.

Christian's wife, Lorraine, has also been greatly supportive of the arboretum, and both were elected Life Members of Denver Botanic Gardens by the board's action.

## Eat at the Gardens!

Plan to eat out this summer—at the Gardens.

In a joint venture with Marc's and Valente's Catering, a food and beverage stand will be stationed in the Oak Grove during the Gardens' regular open hours and during the KCFR/Botanic Gardens concerts.

The menu will include sandwiches, ice cream, fruit, snacks, iced tea and lemonade.

So the next time you come for a stroll, you can stay for lunch. Bon appetit!



Wayne Christian

## Artists' Guild Shows Works in Many Media

The Colorado Artists' Guild will hold its summer multiple-media show at the Gardens Wednesday, July 8, to Sunday, July 12. It opens at noon on the 8th. A punch and cookies reception that evening at 5 is open to DBG Members and the general public.

The guild will auction a picture by Penny Lager, "Delaney Daylilies," in pastels, for the shared benefit of the Gardens and the local chapter of the American Hemerocallis Society. All other works will be for sale. Visitors are invited, also, to help select a work for the "people's choice" award.

For information call 978-9131.

'Delaney Waterlilies' by Pennny Lager





*In every garden,  
at every turn, a  
photograph is  
waiting to be  
taken.*



## **Iris Society Rhizome Sale July 25**

The regional chapter of the American Iris Society will hold its annual rhizome sale at the Gardens Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. until the plants are sold out.

All plants have been carefully grown and cultivated in Colorado, some in society members' gardens, others in its regional display garden.

Proceeds from this sale go to the American Iris Society and DBG for the purpose of promoting the culture of iris. For further information call either of the sale cochairmen: Roy Krug and Jess Quintana, 237-7727.

## **Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' Perennial of the Year**

The Perennial Plant Association selected *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam' as its plant of the year for 1992. The plant was chosen for its flower color, foliage qualities, long blooming period and ease of culture.

Visitors to DBG can see this cultivar on the west side of the main perennial border. Look for its pale yellow, daisy-like flowers.

## **Second DBG Quilting Art Fest in September**

If you wish to participate in the second annual "Petals and Threads" quilt show and sale, September 18 to 20, you need to get your entry in soon. Send a self-addressed, 52-cent stamped envelope for entry and application to: Petals and Threads, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.

Entries may be sale quilts or challenge quilts and quilted wearable art.

Quilts for sale may be of any size, theme or quilting technique. A portion of the sale price will benefit Denver Botanic Gardens.

Challenge pieces must reflect the show theme, "The Enduring Earth." Prizes will be awarded in this contest.

Workshops and other activities will accompany the three-day exhibition. For details call 370-8185. Also, more information will be published in the September issue of this newsletter.

## **Family Activities for 'Kidding Around'**

The Gardens' Kidding Around family activity days continue in July with a program titled "A Tale of Two Tubers" Saturday, the 25th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children and adults will occupy themselves with fun and educational activities with potatoes and sweet potatoes—two plants from the Americas that changed the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head will be in attendance, and kids can start their own sweet potato vine.

The monthly Kidding Around programs are free, and no registration is necessary. Just drop by.

Denver Botanic Gardens and the National Wildflower Center of Austin, Texas, will sponsor an evening lecture and two day-long workshops at DBG on wildflower photography. They will be given by noted photographer and teacher John D. Smithers.

The lecture is Wednesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. Wildflower lovers will enjoy it as much as dedicated photographers. Using his own beautiful and instructive slides, Smithers will give pointers on finding flowers; using lighting, special effects and backdrops; understanding depth of field and other compositional tools; and using a wide array of photo equipment. Tickets for members are \$20 each.

The workshops will be Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12. Attending the Wednesday lecture is a prerequisite. Each comprehensive workshop will consist of an early morning photo shoot in the Gardens under Smithers' supervision, followed by an evening session analyzing the developed results. Member's fee for a workshop is \$130 each.

These programs offer an unequalled opportunity to sharpen your photography skills and will be repaid every time you return from your favorite hiking or camping spot, confident of the images you're bringing home in your camera.

Photography equipment is necessary for the workshops. For details, please consult the Summer Education Programs quarterly, or call the education office, 370-8020.

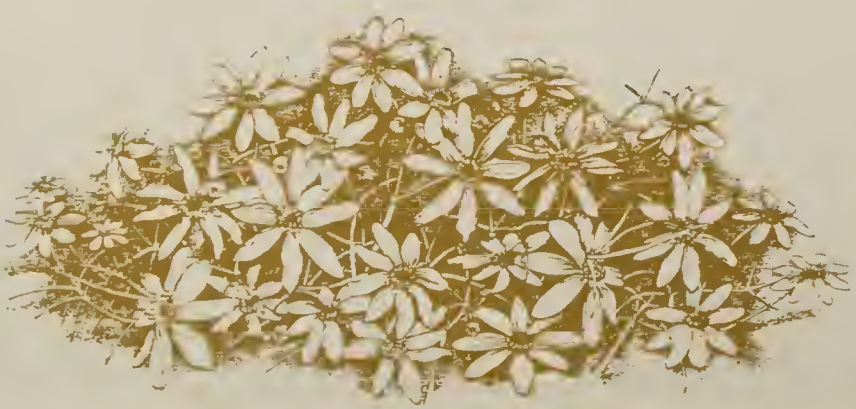
## **Illustration School Grads in Show**

The works of fourteen students of the Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Illustration have been accepted for exhibition at the annual show of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.

The show will be at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo July 26 through August 7.

The jury selected works by students Dawn Adams, Jill Buck, Carole Dieterich, Linda Evens, Barbara Gregg, Ann Lowdermilk, Nancy Lund, Lisa McKinney, Glenda Newton, BJ Pittman, Ann Rager, Marilyn Rest, Anne Sperry and Patricia Whalen.

For more information on the school, accredited by the University of Colorado, please consult your summer Education Programs quarterly.





*continued from page 1*

and recreational experiences, the Gardens must undergo some physical changes.

Also, the methods by which museums and botanic gardens satisfy their educational missions are changing. Indeed, they've improved dramatically since Denver Botanic Gardens adopted its first "master plan," which was based on the best examples of the day.

Members will find the results of this "rediscovery" of the Gardens exciting, indeed, as the plan moves into its first phase of realization.

## The Romantic Gardens

The board has chosen a beautiful new themed display complex for the first phase of development. It will incorporate exciting new features with several existing gardens to occupy the underdeveloped southeast corner of the York Street property.

Designated the "Romantic Gardens," the complex will incorporate a new Fragrance Garden, a Silver Garden, a Passage Garden, a meeting building, plazas, courts and pools. These will join the existing Herb Garden, Scripture Garden and a redesigned Perennial Border to create a focus of intimate spaces hospitable to social activities.

As intensely detailed floral, architectural and historical interpretations, The Romantic Gardens will be unique in North America.

## A Parking Solution

Critical to the success of the new plan is a solution to the inadequate parking for the Gardens. It vexes not only the Gardens but its visitors and neighbors as well. The present lot accommodates 76 cars and offers little encouragement to the arrival and entry of visitors by bus.

The new plan calls for a multi-level parking structure, mostly below ground, to be built on the site of the present lot. It will provide space for over 700 automobiles. Because it will occupy less area, the above-ground level of this building will be lushly screened by dense plantings. To top it off, an roof garden of Plants of the American West will offer a magnificent view of the Rocky Mountains.



*A detail of the future: Children's Exploration Garden (left), Floral Display House (right) south of existing production greenhouses (top).*

## Exciting Explorations

Near the center of the Gardens will be exciting new educational exhibits to draw visitors into an intense exploration of the plant kingdom. A floral display house is planned for the area south of the production greenhouses. It will encourage much more ambitious educational and ornamental flower displays than the current lobby pool area allows.

A Children's Exploration Garden will invite youngsters to wend their way through a plant maze and climb to a "treehouse overlook." The area will be interpreted for younger ages to provide a rich, enjoyable educational experience.

Several display gardens currently dedicated to a single group of plants will make way for larger, integrated displays. Iris, daylilies, lilacs, narcissi and old garden roses will be woven into borders with season-long interest. The paths will be realigned to lead visitors more closely along the waterway.

## Refinements

The gardens along the west borders of the Gardens will be refined and, in some cases, enlarged. A new, larger alpine display house will facilitate modern indoor displays in the

Rock Alpine Garden. The Japanese Garden will gain a pavilion for year-round display of bonsai. A "sod house" educational center will help in the interpretation of the plains garden.

Many of these prospects are far in the future. Richard Koeppe, chairman of the development committee, said, "Funds will be raised through a series of private drives. A combination of revenue and general obligation bonds may be necessary to realize the parking solution."

The board expects, also, to allocate some SCFD funds for the project; they paid for the planning process.

Koeppe said, "We expect that the funding will be phased, and the plan will not be fully completed for about 20 years."

Of the board's approval of this new plan, Richard Daley, executive director, reported, "I'd like to personally commend the board for its inspiring vision in developing this plan for the future. It brings together our goals of horticultural excellence, educational opportunities and environmental responsibilities."

Members, too, will catch the excitement as the plan takes form.





## 6 Discover America's Plants: New Aztec Garden Hints at Glorious Native American Age of Horticulture

Denver Botanic Gardens is recognizing the 500th anniversary this year of Columbus' first arrival in North America with a twist: We're celebrating how American plants have changed the world. The summer-long schedule of events and displays is called "Celebrate America's Plants! 1492-1992."

One of the brightest features is the Aztec Garden, a new display located across the lotus pool from the Southwest Native Peoples' Garden, a popular holdover, expanded from 1991. The Aztec Garden is a tribute to pre-Colombian American horticulture, which far eclipsed the more primitive contemporary practices of Europe.

The gardens of the Aztecs, in the central valley of what is now Mexico, were more colorful, elaborate and technologically advanced than anything the Spanish explorers who succeeded Columbus could have imagined.

Sketchy accounts by those who saw the gardens, including Cortez, describe cities built about and even into shallow lakes, reminiscent of Venice. Straight roads and canals were lined with crowded houses with windowless facades; the homes and shops faced onto their courtyard gardens. Nearly all the flat roofs were thickly planted with rooftop gardens, the view occasionally broken by tall pyramids or temples.

The elaborate gardens of the nobility of the Aztecs and of neighboring independent civilizations must have been breathtaking. The prevailing garden style was formal squares separated by pathways bordered with vine-covered trellises. Contemporary accounts picture splashing fountains, pools stocked with fish, intricate mazes and gardens filled with colorful, aromatic trees, shrubs and flowers that appeared otherworldly to the explorer's wondering eyes. Sanctuaries housed all types of exotic birds and animals.

Floating gardens called *chinapas* dotted the cities' canals. Reeds and roots were lashed together to form a framework holding several feet of fertile lake mud to support the plants.

Maize, vegetables, flowers and even fruit trees grew on these floating gardens, which were sometimes lashed together to form chains hundreds of feet long. An enormous system of sophisticated aqueducts and canals served the parts of the cities not on the lakes.

Tragically, the ruthless result of the Spanish conquest, the cities and their magnificent gardens were destroyed. We are deprived of any remnants of the most wonderful horticultural achievements of the day.

Despite the loss of these garden masterpieces, the native American cultures yielded a bounty of plants—ornamental, culinary, medicinal—that transformed the lives of nearly every civilization on the planet.

The Aztec Garden at Denver Botanic Gardens presents plants that were introduced to the world as a result of this great encounter.

Corn, chili peppers and sweet potatoes were among the Spaniards' earliest exports to Europe. Other American plants destined to alter world cuisines included tomatoes, green beans, squash, pumpkins, and potatoes. Also originating in the Western Hemisphere were avocados, pineapples, papayas, guavas, peanuts, cashews and chocolate.

Among many beautiful flowering plants of American origin are dahlias, marigolds, petunias and zinnias.

When you visit the Aztec Garden this summer you will see in these plants an enticing reminder of a truly golden age of American horticulture.

—Ken Slump

Interesting plants with twin seedpods, Devil's claws (*Proboscidea louisianica*), in several selected varieties, were cultivated for food and fiber by Native Americans throughout the Southwest.



### Mosquitos: Know Them & Banish Them

Mosquitos are a summer nuisance, more pesky in a rainy season than during eastern Colorado's usually rather dry ones.

The cycle of life for mosquitos is both fast and short. Mosquito eggs are usually deposited in pools of water. The eggs hatch into larvae, tiny wormlike creatures that develop into pupae before finally turing into adult—flying—mosquitos.

A complete life cycle takes from 10 days to several weeks. Most species complete several generations a year, each living from two weeks to several months.

Diet, the subject of most interest to gardeners and barbecuers, is fairly consistent among the 3,000 species worldwide. It consists mainly of nectar and plant juices.

Only female mosquitos require animal or human blood and, even then, it is only to supplement their primary, vegetarian diet. Females require the protein-filled blood before they can produce eggs.

Even though some species eschew human blood, preferring that of reptiles, birds or other mammals, here are some tips for eliminating them around your home.

Any water that stands for one week or more during warm weather is a potential breeding place: old tires, leaf-clogged gutters, empty cans and jars, birdbaths, puddles from plumbing leaks, unused barbecues or garbage can lids. Simply eliminate the water in these handy hatcheries.

Mosquitos rest in moist shaded areas. Keep weeds and grass cut all around your home, especially in shady spots. And keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.





# *Birds, butterflies, barbeque, & bluegrass...*

**The Fourth Annual Picnic  
for members of Denver Botanic Gardens.**

**Saturday, July 25, 1992**

**4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Chatfield Arboretum**

**Deer Creek Canyon Rd. & Wadsworth Blvd.**

- Country barbeque by Bennet's served 4:30-6:30
- *The Bumbling Brothers* live bluegrass & country music
- Hayrack rides • Games for children • Guided tours

Members \$9 per person • Nonmembers \$11 per person • Children under 5 free



---

## **DBG Members' Day at Chatfield Arboretum Reservation Form**

**Enjoy Barbeque • Nature • Entertainment by The Bumbling Brothers**  
**Sorry, no pets allowed.**

Reservations are for \_\_\_\_\_ members (\$9 each), \_\_\_\_\_ nonmembers (\$11 each)  
\_\_\_\_\_ children under 5 (free).

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Charge to my ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard Sig. \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets are non-refundable • Mail reservation, postmarked by July 10 to:  
Members' Day at Chatfield Arboretum • Denver Botanic Gardens  
909 York Street • Denver, CO 80206

For information call Michelle Gatewood in the Membership Office at 370-8021.  
You will receive a postcard/admission ticket confirming your reservation.





# JULY

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☉ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the Summer *Education Programs* quarterlies, or call 370-8020.

### July

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>1-5 Watercolor Society Show &amp; Sale<br/><i>Tundra Trip to Corona Pass</i><br/>3 ☉ Chatfield Arboretum Tours<br/>6-9 <i>Summertime Kids: Bees, Butterflies &amp; Blossoms, Ecodiversity, Owl Lives Here</i><br/>6 * <i>Arranging Lessons with Fresh Flowers</i><br/>* <i>Maintaining Your Landscape</i><br/>7 <i>Gardening with Perennials</i><br/>8 <i>Wildflower &amp; Landscape Photography Lecture</i><br/><i>Alpine Ecology</i><br/>9, 10 Concert: Michael Doucet &amp; Beausoleil<br/>11 Daylily Show &amp; Sale<br/>Chatfield Arboretum Free Day<br/>☉ <i>Butterfly Walk</i><br/><i>Chilies &amp; Chocolate</i><br/>11, 12 <i>Wildflower Photography Workshops</i><br/>12 <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony I</i><br/>13 <i>Summertime Kids: Fuzzy, Smelly &amp; Sticky, The Festival of Stars, Click, Snap, Flash, The Shy and Gentle Bat</i><br/>15 <i>Beginning Papermaking</i><br/><i>Raised Bed Garden Design</i><br/>16 <i>Introduction to the Endangered Species Garden</i></p> | <p><i>Roxborough State Park Field Trip I</i><br/>17 <i>Tools for Easier Gardening</i><br/><i>Wildflower Hike at Green Mountain Open Space</i><br/>18 <i>Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour I</i><br/>☉ <i>Herb Walk I</i><br/><i>Japanese Tea Ceremony II</i><br/><i>Roxborough State Park Field Trip II</i><br/>19 <i>Cooking with Flowers</i><br/>20-23 <i>Summertime Kids: Dinosaur Ghosts, Patterns in Nature, Chatfield Ponders</i><br/>21 Young Audiences Concert: Peter and the Wolf<br/>* <i>Dry It. You'll Like It!</i><br/>22 Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day<br/><i>Sensory Garden Tour</i><br/>* <i>Watercolor Painting</i><br/>23, 24 Concert: The Gospel at Colonus<br/>23 <i>Perennial Walk I</i><br/>25 Iris Rhizome Sale<br/><i>Kidding Around: A Tale of Two Tubers</i><br/>26 <i>Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour II</i><br/>27-31 Glass at the Gardens<br/>28 <i>Color Theory for the Advanced Perennial Gardener</i><br/>29 * <i>Beginning Ikebana Lessons</i></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 'Gospel at Colonus' A Summer Concerts Series Must

Vincent C. Robinson is Preacher Oedipus in Eulipions' critically acclaimed "The Gospel at Colonus," coming to the Gardens July 23 & 24.



The KCFR/Botanic Gardens series continues in July with a sold-out performance by Michael Doucet and Beausoleil.

The following Thursday, July 16, brings The Denver Brass and its innovated orchestrations. Their newest recording, "Seville," is being applauded by critics and listeners alike.

July 23 and 24 get set for the show that will become the hit of Denver's outdoor music season when "Oedipus at Colonus" becomes "The Gospel at Colonus." This is the critically acclaimed production by Denver's Eulipions Cultural Center, which sold out in its home theater. It will be even more exciting in the Gardens' amphitheatre. Concert-goers in the know will buy their tickets now. This African-American gospel setting of the Greek tragedy showcases exceptional vocal and theatrical talent.

The month ends with the classical tones of The Ensemble of Santa Fe July 30. Coming to DBG on their first tour, the group's repertoire runs from Baroque to 20th Century and incorporates commissioned works and classical favorites. The virtuosity of this ensemble will not disappoint you.





## American Indian Sunflower Harvest Festival Aug. 29 & 30

The Gardens will celebrate the uses of native plants in High Plains and Southwestern American Indian cultures with a festive weekend event Aug. 29 and 30: the Sunflower Harvest Festival, with workshops, music and dancing.

Most of the activities will take place in or near the Southwestern Native Peoples' Garden and the Aztec Garden.

The event is coordinated by Lakota and Northern Cheyenne Theresa Rose Gutierrez; all activities will be conducted by American Indians.

Public activities include the raising of an authentic tipi on the DBG grounds, a ceremonial prayer and blessing by Kiowa Chief John Emhoolah and singing and dance performances. Native crafts and foods will also be sold on Sunday.

A variety of special classes including Paiute basketry, quill earrings and Indian fry bread will be available. These classes require advanced reservation and fee payment. Members will receive a Sunflower Harvest Festival brochure describing these and other activities. For information call 370-8019.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

### Denver Botanic Gardens August 1992 Number 92-8



*An early-morning tipi raising will lead off Saturday's ceremonies during the Sunflower Harvest Festival.*

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## From the Executive Director

Since the first botanic garden in mid-sixteenth century Padua, Italy, these living museums have assembled wonderful living collections for study and, later, display. The Denver Botanic Gardens has many outstanding collections, including our water plants. These reach their zenith in late summer.

The waterlilies, the centerpiece of our collection, are brilliant this time of year. You should make a special point to see them, especially in late afternoon or early evening.

Thanks to our specialist, Joe Tomocik, and the assistance of many volunteers from the Colorado Water Gardening Society—the founders of the International Water Garden Society—our collection has become nationally and internationally acclaimed.

Perhaps the most spectacular waterlily is the *Victoria reginae*. This plant, native to tropical America, has beautiful white flowers that open in the evening. It also has immense, prickly-ribbed leaves. You can see Victorias in only a few places, including, of course, in the display at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Thanks to the sponsorship of May D&F, we have taken our collection and expertise into the community with a fine display of water plants at the downtown store on the 16th Street Mall.

Be sure to visit both displays this summer.

—Richard H. Daley

*Flora the Garden  
Fairie flew in  
for the recent  
DBG Community  
Gardens  
scarecrow  
contest.*



## Contributors to the Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Fund

Mr. & Mrs. William N. Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce K. Behr  
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Bowman  
Ms. Geraldine Brimmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mackintosh Brown  
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Mr. & Mrs. Doyle P. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Smith  
Ms. Phyllis Stillman  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Lawrence Wiberg

## Tributes

**In memory of Mona Bell**

Ms. Allyne E. Lawless

**In memory of James A. Greenfield**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Kennedy

**In memory of Bernard Kennedy**

Mr. & Mrs. John A. Atkinson

**In memory of Lawrence A. Long**

Mrs. Walter K. Koch

Mr. David J. Stephenson, Jr.

**In memory of Joe Zavadil**

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Markson

## You Swamped Us!

The recent campaign to increase membership in the Gardens was so successful it nearly overwhelmed the membership office with renewals and new sign-ups. However, they have streamlined their processing procedures and brought on extra staff to eliminate the backlog that temporarily developed.

To our members whose cards were delayed, we apologize. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Employee of the Month

She's an extraordinarily patient problem solver, an excellent communicator and one who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the people who rent our facilities have a good "DBG experience." Formerly our facilities scheduling coordinator, now receptionist, she's Karen Schoen, June employee of the month. We salute you, Karen. And thank you for your ever-present smile.

## Green Thumb News Number 92-8 • August 1992

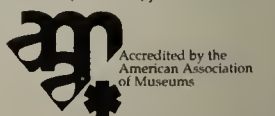
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Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for October issue: August 21

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Chatfield Garners Environment Award

The Jefferson Soil Conservation District has designated Chatfield Arboretum its 1992 Environmentalist of the Year.

According to Chris Hartung, horticulturist at the arboretum, several reasons were given for the award. Foremost is Chatfield's windbreak, unique in the number of species of trees that comprise it. There are 68, some of which grow nowhere else in the region.

However, the Arboretum was also commended for its native plantings, the Kim Stern Survival Garden and its trails, and the wetlands, which were salvaged from the path of highway C-470.

## Grant-Humphreys Opens Gardens

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs will host "A Walk in the 20th Century" Friday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to celebrate the grand opening of the gardens at the Grant-Humphreys Mansion.

The Federation researched and planted the period garden at the historic mansion at 770 Pennsylvania Ave. with the sponsorship of National Mortgage Corporation.

An entry fee of \$5 includes a garden walk, refreshments and a flower show. Call 278-9174 for more information.

## DBG Membership Levels & Benefits Change in September

Louise Connor, director of membership and development, announced that the benefits and categories of membership in the Gardens will change September 15.

The changes are the result of a marketing survey of the Gardens' present members and potential members, and reflect the trend among nonprofit organizations to simplify their rate structures. The last time DBG membership rates and benefits were updated was in March of 1986.

Until Sept. 15 current members—no matter when their membership is due for renewal—have the option of extending their membership for an additional year at the old rates.

To take advantage of this offer, or for more information, call Syd Glick, membership coordinator, at 370-8029.



*Left: The Glass Arts Fellowship's Glass at the Gardens show continues through Aug. 9.*

*Below: Robert Heapes.*

## Historian-Photographer Records Expedition

Local historian-photographer Robert Heapes, a DBG volunteer and rock garden aficionado, has received a grant from the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities to record the 1820 expedition of Major Stephen Harriman Long. Long was sent by the then Secretary of War to explore the headwaters of the Platte and other major rivers rising on the east side of the southern Rockies.

Heapes' application for the CEH grant was sponsored by Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Long expedition was the first into Colorado to include a botanist, Dr. Edwin James, and a trained zoologist, Thomas Say. Both are responsible for the discovery of hundreds of new species and for greatly expanding the knowledge of Western flora and fauna. Also, expedition naturalist painter Samuel Seymore was the first to paint scenes of the Rocky Mountains and the plains American Indians.

Heapes is an expert on the soldier-scientists of the first half of the 19th century. His previous program illustrated the journey of Lewis and Clark. Using computer-controlled multiple projectors, music and narration it takes his audiences along the same route as the explorers during the seasons they experienced on their trip. He has presented it across the United States, including the annual meeting of the Northwest Horticultural Society in Seattle and to the Garden Writers Association of America in Denver.

Heapes' slides will be transferred to videotape and available at Denver Botanic Gardens for distribution to educators, history buffs and armchair travelers.





## 4 Internships Bring 10 Students to Gardens For Summer

Each year the Denver Botanic Gardens staff is joined by students anxious to learn more about the practical side of gardening and the day-to-day operation of a large public display garden such as DBG. This summer there are ten new people working alongside the professional staff members, five in horticulture, two in research, one in horticultural therapy and two in engineering.

Their internships are supported by special endowments and gifts.

### Applied Horticulture

The Gardens' Internships in Applied Horticulture brought four college students and a volunteer intern for 10 weeks of educational enrichment and hands-on experience in the plant collections department. Field trips, special projects and lectures round out their introduction to Front Range botany and horticulture.

The two annual Alice Mann Owen Internships in Applied Horticulture were awarded to Julie Landt and Deborah Smith. Landt is majoring in ornamental horticulture at New Mexico State University. Smith is pursuing a degree in landscape horticulture at Colorado State University.

The Clara Van Schaak Phipps Internship in Applied Horticulture was awarded to Tricia Cox. Cox is studying urban horticulture at Front Range Community College.

Rebecca Shattuck's internship in applied horticulture is funded by Mrs. Beatrice Taplin. Shattuck is working toward a degree in landscape architecture and a certificate in urban design from the University of Washington.

The Gardens is fortunate to have Effie Vranka as a volunteer intern in the 1992 program. Vranka is an active DBG conservatory guide and a Master Gardener.

Additional support for the college internship program is provided, also, by gifts from the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, The Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, the Denver Chapter of Gardeners of America and others.



### Research

The Gardens' Center for Plant Conservation Program is being assisted by two interns this year. Under the direction of research botanist Carol Dawson, they are gaining a technical knowledge of native plants, especially those that are rare or endangered.

Jon Bates is a junior at Denver University studying botany and environmental science. As a field assistant he is setting up demography plots in two remote study areas, accompanying Dawson on expeditions to find and collect seeds and helping set up a nursery for rare plants at Chatfield Arboretum. His internship is supported by the Center for Plant Conservation.

Constantine Svirchevski, a biogeographer and ecologist from Leningrad State University, last attended Colorado University at Boulder. As a research intern at DBG he is continuing a wildflower vegetation project southwest of Denver funded by Martin Marietta Aerospace, monitoring seeded wildflower plots and designing a soil solarization experiment.

### Horticultural Therapy

Lynn Banowetz, a CSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in landscape horticulture, is the 1992 horticultural

therapy intern. Her six-month internship began in May.

Working with horticultural therapist Rebecca Haller, Banowetz is helping the developmentally disabled in the community gardens and also working with groups of seniors, the mentally ill and Veterans Administration Hospital patients.

### Engineering

Merrick and Company, a Denver architectural engineering firm, has provided the Gardens with two engineering interns for the summer to update records on mechanical systems. Maps of these systems have in some cases been incomplete and in others become outdated as construction has progressed over the years.

Amy Tharaldson and Sanjay Varma are verifying existing heating, air-conditioning and plumbing lines in the Alpine House and Boettcher Education Center. After mapping the systems at the Gardens, they will draft them with a computer assisted design software program. This will enable the Gardens' operations department to keep them current in the Gardens' computer system as changes are made in the future. Up-to-date maps of these systems will be invaluable as the Gardens initiates the construction for its master plan.

Tharaldson is a junior at the University of Colorado at Boulder studying toward a degree in civil engineering. Varma is a fourth-year student at Colorado State University, where he is studying mechanical engineering. Their unusual internships are under the supervision of Todd Brusk, Merrick vice president, and David Beesley, director of the Gardens' operations department.

*Interns top: Rebecca Shattuck, Tricia Cox, Deborah Smith, Julie Landt, Effie Vranka. Center: Sanjay Varma and Amy Tharaldson. Below: Jon Bates. Bottom: Lynn Banowetz.*





# DBG Master Plan To Be Unveiled at Community Meet

5

An open public meeting on the recently announced Master Plan for the Garden's York Street site will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, in Mitchell Hall in order to provide a detailed explanation of the plan to the community and civic and environmental organizations.

The meeting is one of a continuing series of such meetings that have been held by DBG officials since the Master Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in late May.

"We have met with several city agencies and numerous city leaders on the plan," said Richard H. Daley, DBG executive director. "And we will continue to meet with community groups and public officials throughout the summer in order to ensure that there is the widest possible awareness and understanding of our exciting blueprint for the future," Daley added.

In early June, for example, Daley and Newell Grant, president of the DBG board of trustees, met with members of the DBG community advisory committee on the Master Plan, a group created more than two years ago to provide community input, and with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department advisory board.

DBG officials also have attended meetings of such community groups as the Morgan's Historic District Homeowners Association to solicit comment and answer questions, and Daley and Grant explained the plan to editors and reporters of *The Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News* and at a news conference for the print and broadcast media in mid June.

"We will keep our members fully informed as the planning process moves along," Daley said. "Of course, all members will be welcome at the Aug. 9 meeting, and we will be pleased to provide information on the Master Plan if members will contact my office at 370-8010," he added.

The \$40-million, 20-year Master Plan announced by the trustees in May calls for the creation of new high-quality gardens, educational displays and facilities, and community amenities that will place the York Street Gardens among the premier botanical gardens in the nation.

In addition to new teaching, display and environmental gardens, the plan calls for the construction of a \$10-million, 700-space underground parking structure on the site of the Gardens' current 73-space parking lot.

"It's important to note that the plan does not require additional land," Daley said. "The gardens will stay

within their present boundaries, but the quality of our exhibits will be improved dramatically. There will be no loss of green space; in fact, we will create new green space with a Garden of the American West atop the roof of our parking structure," he said.

The safety and convenience of access to the Gardens for motorists and pedestrians will be improved, and the parking structure will be designed to ease long-standing neighborhood parking problems.

Financing for all new exhibits and improvements within the Gardens

will be obtained from private donors. Construction of the new parking structure will be financed through a combination of private funds and bond issues. Work on the first of the new gardens within the York Street site could begin as early as 1994. Construction of the new parking structure is estimated to begin in seven to 10 years.

The Master Plan was designed by Environmental Planning and Design of Pittsburgh, one of the foremost botanical gardens design firms in the nation. John Prosser of Denver is a cooperating architect.

## Fête des Fleurs To Be an Elegant Affair



Fête co-chairmen Mrs. Dennis Miles Jackson and Mrs. Newell M. Grant.

The *Fête des Fleurs* committee has announced an elegant black-tie affair for this year's event Friday, September 11. Guests will enjoy dinner and beverages by Le Petit Gourmet and will dance to music by the Jerry Barnett Orchestra.

The 1992 *Fête* is chaired by Mrs. Newell M. Grant and Mrs. Dennis Miles Jackson; honorary chairmen are Mrs. John C. Mitchell, II, and Mrs. Bayard K. Sweeney, Jr.

The *Fête* is a major annual benefit for Denver Botanic Gardens, and will raise funds to support the horticultural therapy, adult and children's education and community outreach programs. Reservations are \$350 for a couple, \$500 for a patron.

Other hard-working committee members are:

Treasurer, Mrs. Korvin L. Powell; publicity, Mrs. John C. Mitchell, III; ticket committee chairman, Mrs. John Evans Freyer; ticket committee co-chairmen, Mrs. Arthur H. Bosworth II, Mrs. Henry Higginbottom and Ms. Ellen K. Waterman;

Entertainment committee coordinator, Mrs. John D. Woods; music, Mrs. Richard T. Lyford, Jr.; menu, Mrs. Alva James Hickerson; decorations, Mrs. Lewis Douglas; flowers, Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin; favors, Mrs. Peter H. Coors;

Printing and program, Mrs. Richard H. Daley and Mrs. Lewis Clark Tierney; invitation chairman, Mrs. Henry William Gossard; invitation co-chairmen, Mrs. Louis P. Bansbach, III, Mrs. Michael J. Urbana and Mrs. Frank Van de Water;

Reservations, Mrs. Edward P. Connors, Mrs. Warren Sheridan and Mrs. Grant Wimbush; historian, Mrs. Peter H. Blair, Jr.; board representative, Mrs. Charles C. Gates; underwriting liaisons, Mrs. J. Landis Martin and Mrs. Joseph S. Davis; and DBG liaisons, Mrs. Hayden Connor and Ms. Rhea Brown.

The Denver Botanic Gardens trustees and staff are grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm the committee is bringing to the 1992 *Fête des Fleurs*.





## 6 **DBG Gardener Awarded Scholarship**

DBG gardener Jennifer Price was awarded one of the five 1993 scholarships by the Colorado Garden and Home Show. CGHS president Doris Swift presented the award at a reception at the Gardens July 17.

The scholarships are supported by proceeds of the annual gardening and home products show held in Currigan Hall. They are awarded on grades, need, in-state enrollment and long-term plans that reflect benefit to the green industry of Colorado.

Price has been a Denver Botanic Gardens employee in the plant collections department since March 1990. A student at Metro State, she plans to use her scholarship to continue her career in educating the public about horticulture.

*Upper right:  
DBG gardener  
Jennifer Price,  
CGHS board mem-  
ber Andrew Pierce  
and CGHS presi-  
dent Doris Swift.*

*Below:  
Pamela Harper*



## **Mushroom Fair Exhibits Fascinating Colorado Collection**

One of Colorado's most interesting summer events, the Colorado Mycological Society Mushroom Fair, returns to the Gardens Sunday, August 23.

In preparation for the event, members of the society collect specimens of hundreds of species from all over the state for exhibition in John C. Mitchell II Hall. They will also display and sell mushroom paraphernalia and guidebooks.

World-renowned mycologist Dr. Harry Theirs of San Francisco State University will join local experts to help you identify mushrooms that may have popped up in your yard or that you've brought back from a recent camping trip. You can find out if you're holding a beautiful but deadly species, or if you have the beginnings of a gourmet dinner.

If you're thinking of learning more about fungi, the Mushroom Fair is an excellent place to start. Learn, also, about the society's mushroom-hunting forays and its educational programs.

For more information call 940-9411.

## **Author-Photographer Pamela Harper Keynotes CGGA/DBG Workshop Aug. 12**

Gardener, photographer, award-winning writer, Pamela Harper will be the keynote speaker at the third



annual Perennial Plant Workshop Wednesday, Aug. 12, cosponsored by the Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association and Denver Botanic Gardens.

An internationally recognized expert on perennials, she will give two lectures,

"Perennials for Connoisseurs" during the morning session and "Color Echoes" in the evening.

She began her gardening in England in 1955. She now lives in Virginia where her life, she says, "revolves around plants: reading, writing, lecturing, photography and working in my own two sandy acres." She also owns the Harper Horticultural Slide Library with about 150,000 slides of plants and gardens, all taken by her. Her photographs have been published in over a hundred books and periodicals.

Harper will give two slide-lectures during the workshop, "Perennials for Connoisseurs" during the morning session and "Color Echoes" in the evening.

Complete details and a registration form are on page 7 of this issue. For more information, call 427-8132.

## **DBG Library Set for Serials Cataloging Joint Project**

Denver Botanic Gardens' Helen Fowler Library and three other museum libraries that comprise the Museum Libraries Cooperative have received a \$32,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Education to catalog their serials titles into a bibliographic database. The three other organizations in the MLC are the Colorado Historical Society, Denver Museum of Natural History and Denver Art Museum.

The purpose of the one-year project is to increase access to their significant holdings and to compile statistics upon which a cooperative serials collection policy can be based.

This database of all their magazines, journals, quarterlies and yearbooks will be made available nationwide through the On-line Computer Library Center. Also, a printed list will be distributed to Colorado's public and academic libraries.

## **Kid Around with Plant Dyes Aug. 22**

The August Kidding Around activity is Saturday, the 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"To Dye For" will give children an opportunity to learn about traditional American Indian plant dyes and to use them to color wool yarn.

Kidding Around is a series of free family-oriented educational activities. No reservations are required.

For more information call 870-8019.





# Third Annual Perennial Plant Workshop

## Wednesday, August 12, 1992

Featuring the internationally renowned  
perennial expert, Pamela Harper

Sponsored by  
Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association  
and Denver Botanic Gardens

For Amateur & Professional Perennial Enthusiasts

John C. Mitchell II Hall • Denver Botanic Gardens • 1005 York Street

### Program

#### Morning

- 9:30 Registration  
10:00 Welcome and Introduction  
Lynn Barker, Chairman of CGGA  
Perennial Plant Committee  
"Perennials for Connoisseurs" by Pamela Harper  
Refreshments  
11:30 Guided Tours of Denver Botanic Gardens\*

#### Evening

- 5:30 Registration  
6:00 Guided Tours of Denver Botanic Gardens\*  
7:00 Welcome and Introduction  
Lynn Barker, Chairman of CGGA  
Perennial Plant Committee  
"Color Echoes" by Pamela Harper  
Refreshments

\*Gardens that will have guides available: Perennial Garden, Herb Garden, Rock Alpine Garden, Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, Hemerocallis Garden, Test Gardens, Xeriscape Garden, Water Garden



### Registration Form • 3rd Annual CGGA/DBG Perennial Plant Workshop

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

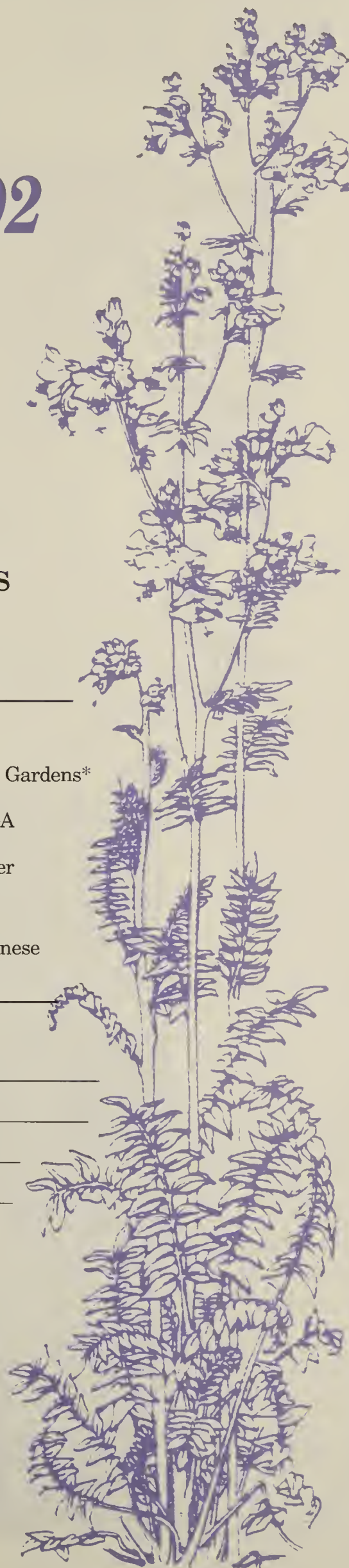
#### Prior to August 7, 1992

Perennials for Connoisseurs \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Color Echoes \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Both Lectures \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$17.50 \_\_\_\_\_

#### At the Door

Perennials for Connoisseurs \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Color Echoes \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Both Lectures \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$22.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: Colorado Greenhouse Growers Assn.  
Mail Registration and Check to: 7475 Dakin St., Suite 540, Denver, CO 80221  
For Additional Information Call: (303) 427-8132 or Fax (303) 427-8139





Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

909 York Street

Denver, Colorado 80206

303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

Address correction requested

TIME VALUE • August 1992



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Denver, CO

# AUGUST

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☼ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the Summer *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1-9 Glass at the Gardens (continued)</p> <p>1 ☼ <i>Herb Walks II</i><br/><i>A Cornucopia of Tropical Delights</i></p> <p>2 <i>Scripture Garden Walk II</i></p> <p>3-6 <i>Summertime Kids: ABC Plants, The Tree of Life, How the West Was Woven &amp; Buzzing Around</i></p> <p>4 <i>Discover America's Plants I</i></p> <p>6 ☼ <i>*Hunting Fascinating Fungi</i></p> <p>7 KCFR/Botanic Gardens Concert: Mahlathini &amp; the Mahotella Queens</p> <p>8 Chatfield Arboretum Free Day<br/><i>Kidding Around: A Gift of Corn</i><br/><i>Gentian Foray at South Park</i><br/><i>Close-up Flower Photography</i><br/><i>Mexican Mole</i></p> <p>9 <i>Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours III</i><br/><i>Tea Ceremony III</i></p> <p>10-13 <i>Summertime Kids: ABC Plants, Anna Banana &amp; Pollution Solutions</i></p> <p>11 Young Audiences Concert: Queen City Jazz Band &amp; Friends</p> <p>12 Perennial Plants Workshop<br/><i>Dazzling Dahlias</i></p> <p>14 KCFR/Botanic Gardens Concert: Strunz &amp; Farah with UFS</p> | <p>15-22 Rose Festival</p> <p>15 <i>Beginning Papermaking</i><br/><i>Cosas Naturales</i><br/>☼ <i>Potpourri Workshop I</i><br/>☼ <i>Moonlight Walk</i></p> <p>16 Denver Rose Society Show<br/><i>American Tomatoes in Tuscan Cuisine</i></p> <p>17-20 <i>Summertime Kids: The Desert is Theirs</i></p> <p>19 <i>Discover America's Plants II</i><br/><i>*Intermediate Advanced Bonsai: On the Rocks</i><br/>☼ <i>Bark Basket I</i></p> <p>18 <i>Perennial Walk II</i></p> <p>22 <i>Kidding Around: To Dye For</i><br/>☼ <i>Bark Basket II</i><br/><i>Sensory Garden Tour</i><br/>☼ <i>Wild Grasses Workshop</i><br/><i>Caribbean Feast</i></p> <p>23 Mushroom Fair<br/><i>Aquatic Plant Walk I</i></p> <p>24 <i>Plains Garden Walk I</i></p> <p>29, 30 American Indian Sunflower Harvest Festival</p> <p>29 <i>Tallgrass Prairie Field Trip</i></p> <p>31 <i>Horticultural Activities for Senior Centers</i></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Rose Show Highlights Festival Week August 15-22



The Denver Rose Society's annual show Sunday, Aug. 16, will highlight the Gardens' rescheduled Rose Festival the week of Aug. 15 through 22.

Throughout the festival week, visitors with the word "rose" in their names will be admitted to the Gardens free.

On the weekend of the 15th and 16th, rose society experts and members of the DBG horticulture staff will be on hand in the May Bonfils Stanton Memorial Rose Garden and the All America Rose Society Test Garden to answer questions on rose care and to guide visitors toward choosing appropriate roses for their gardens.

The society's annual show, sanctioned by the American Rose Society, will bring hundreds of blossoms into John C. Mitchell II Hall during the second peak blooming season of the summer. Hundreds of roses will be on display for judging. Entries will be accepted from 7 to 10 a.m. The show will open from 1 to 5 p.m. For information on the show, call chairman Jerry Boller, 422-5905.

The Rose Festival was postponed from June due to a scheduling conflict.



## Quilt Art to Celebrate 'The Enduring Earth'

Cave paintings, sign language, hieroglyphics and quilts—all are ways people have devised to communicate. Quilting has been used to tell folk tales, depict family trees and commemorate loved ones. While ensuring warmth and comfort, quilting is also beautiful folk art.

Quilts and wearable art in the Gardens' "Petals and Threads" challenge during the second annual quilt show and sale Sept. 18 to 20 will explore the theme of "The Enduring Earth." Prizes will be awarded for the best quilt interpretation of this theme in two categories, one chosen by experienced quilt judges and one by visitors to the show. The wearable art will be for sale.

In addition to the theme quilts, 15 show quilts from Mountain Mist, a local quilt shop, will be displayed.

A quilt made especially for this show will be raffled for the benefit of DBG. Sponsored by Columbine Quilt Guild, volunteers have designed and made an 85-by 100-inch blue satin point quilt titled "Delectable Mountains." Tickets are \$1 each and are available through the guild. For tickets call Karen Katamura, 666-8137.

### Workshops

Two nationally recognized quilt artists will conduct workshops at the Gardens during the event. Two workshops, each held Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19, are limited to 20 participants. The workshops are \$60 for members, \$75 for nonmembers. Call 370-8019 for registration information.

Marta Amundson's two-session workshop, "The Reversible Japanese Field Jacket (Hippari)" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., will acquaint students with techniques in machine appliqué, Seminole patchwork, strip piecing, quilting and decorative uses of lace and ribbon.

Janet Page-Kessler will teach "Using Designs from Nature in Machine Appliqués." in two sessions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will explore basic techniques and materials, pulling from nature—a leaf, shell, flower or fruit—to create an original design for a small appliqué panel or block.

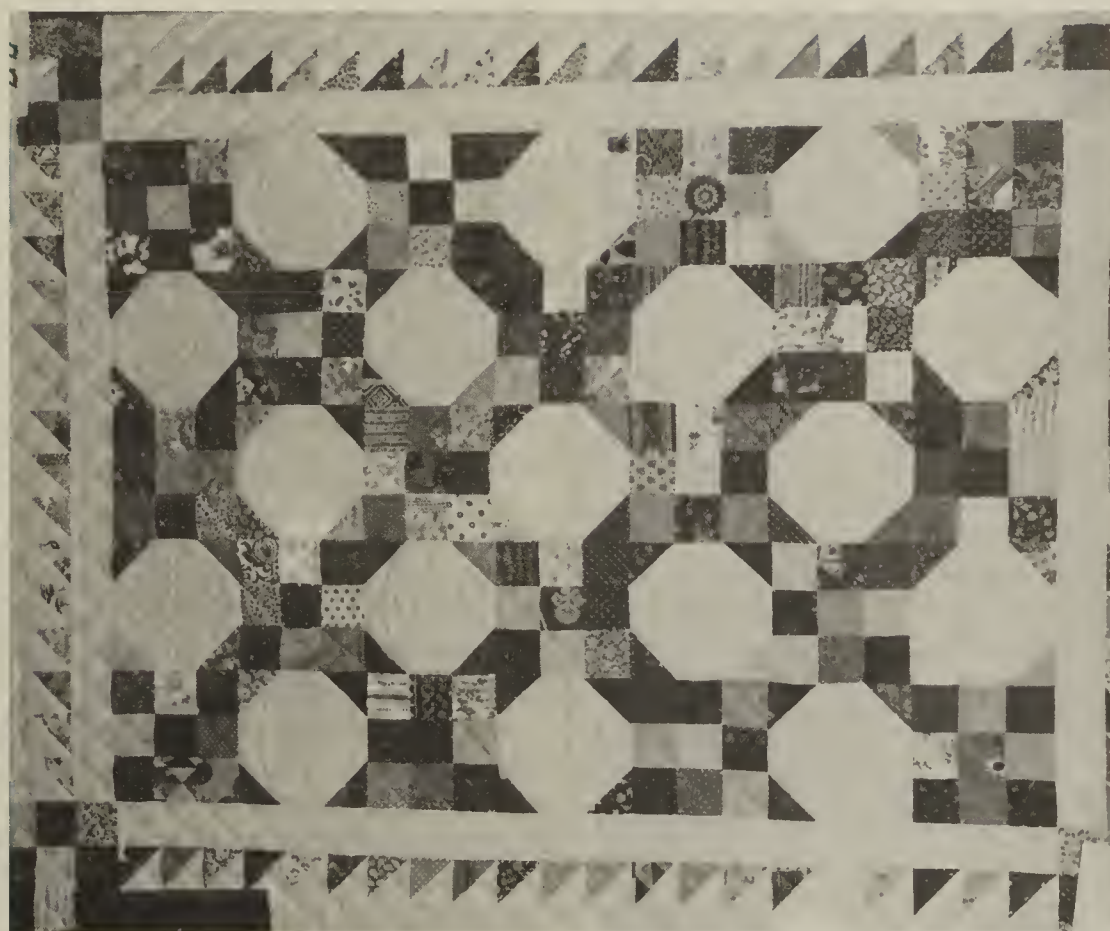
In the evenings quilters may attend an informal buffet supper and conversation with one of the instructors. Page-Kessler will attend Friday, and Amundson on Saturday. Participants are invited to bring a piece of quilt-work to "show and tell." Seating is limited to 40 persons each evening. For reservations, \$15, call 370-8185.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

**Denver Botanic Gardens  
September 1992  
Number 92-9**



*Quilts of all sizes and styles will be featured at "Petals & Threads."*

### Inside:

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page 4*

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page 5*

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page 6*

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Another activity is an "ugly fats" exchange. A fat is a quarter-yard square of fabric remnant. An ugly fat is one that the quilter is tired of and has no use for. During "Petals and Threads" quilters may toss their ugly fat in a large container and take home someone else's in exchange.

You still may enter a quilt or piece of wearable art in this year's "Petals & Threads." For rules and an application send a self-addressed 52-cent stamped envelope to: Petals & Threads, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206.



## From the Executive Director

The fundamental mission of a botanic garden is education about the importance of plants and showing people how to enjoy them in their own lives. We do this through our displays on the grounds and in Boettcher Memorial Conservatory. However, we do it in a more formal way through our education programs.

This fall we are offering an impressive array of classes, lectures and field trips for our members and the general public. If you have never taken a course, I hope you will join one this fall. Judging from the large number of people who sign up on a regular basis, these courses are most useful and enjoyable.

You should receive your new fall education programs quarterly in mid-September. You may request additional copies from the education office, 370-8020.

But our educational programming goes far beyond these courses. Our horticultural therapy program, one of the finest in the country, is for teachers and therapists of individuals with various disabilities. The community outreach program takes the Gardens' expertise into low-income communities, especially to encourage community gardens and neighborhood beautification.

Our programs for schoolchildren and their teachers are critical to our educational role, as we strive to enhance the science programs in public schools. We do not want to make a scientist of every child. But an enthusiasm about and a basic understanding of the natural world is essential to anyone who must confront our environmental problems as they mature.

I am very proud of Denver Botanic Gardens' diverse educational programs, led by Pat Pachuta, director of education, and her talented staff. I encourage you to join and support the many programs they have created.

—Richard H. Daley

*Pennisetum  
setaceum  
'Rubrum', an  
annual grass,  
softens the late-  
summer land-  
scape around  
DBGs amphi-  
theater.*



## Four Seasons Affiliates Keep the Magic Alive

In the classic tale, *The Secret Garden*, a "quite contrary" little girl grows into a loving and compassionate child, and a sick boy becomes well—all from the "magic" of the garden.

This same magic is enjoyed by the thousands who each year visit the Denver Botanic Gardens. Unfortunately, magic alone cannot sustain the beauty and mission of the Gardens. Community donors are needed to keep the gardens growing.

The Four Seasons Affiliates are especially supportive community members whose generosity keeps the magic alive at Denver Botanic Gardens. The Gardens, in turn, is grateful for their support:

For a donation of \$1,000 or more a Four Seasons Affiliate receives, among other benefits, two season passes to the summer concert series and an opportunity to join a special botanical trip. Larger donations reap additional benefits.

If you would like to help share the magic of the Gardens by becoming a Four Seasons Affiliate, call the development office at 370-8027.

## Tributes

**In honor of Wayne Christian**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lane J. Johnson

**In memory of Milton Aaron**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Appel

**In memory of Gloria Falkenberg**  
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Canon  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cable Jackson  
Ms. Sarah G. See  
Mrs. Moses Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson

**In memory of Agnes Leitner**  
Ms. Ruth Breckon

**In memory of Lawrence Long**  
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Canon  
Mr. & Mrs. William Cable Jackson

**In memory of Richard M. Millard**  
Ms. Solange G. Gignac

**In memory of Donald Keith Morgan**  
Pink Powder Puff

## Vol. Mary Klinger Dies

In 1982 Mary (Mrs. Bruno) Klinger moved from Ft. Collins to the Denver area to become a volunteer at Denver Botanic Gardens. She joined the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens and, until the severe illness which made her an invalid, gave thousands of hours to the Gardens.

Her generous, anonymous, donation made possible the installation of the Gardens' first computer system. She will be remembered especially for her warm greeting to visitors at the lobby information desk.

Fellow members of the Associates and other friends remember her fondly.

—Moras Shubert, DBG Trustee

## Green Thumb News Number 92-9 • September 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for November issue: Sept. 18

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





Mark Sunday, Sept. 13, on your calendars now. It's the day you, as a member of Denver Botanic Gardens, may pick up your annual free plant dividend at the Gardens. (Note particularly the change to Sunday.)

In keeping with the Gardens' observance of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the New World, all species offered this year are native to the Western Hemisphere. Both indoor and outdoor plants will be available for your selection.

## Houseplants

Among the plants for indoors are two species of *Pilea* that may have been among the first exotic foliage seen by Columbus and his crew. Both are native to the West Indies, Panama and northern South America. Most plants of the genus *Pilea* are small plants with rather insignificant flowers, but their often colorful, textured or patterned leaves make them welcome additions to our indoor gardens.

*P. involucrata*, known as friendship plant, has dark green foliage with a bronzy sheen. Sometimes called creeping Charlie, *P. nummularifolia* is a trailing plant with reddish stems bearing round, quilted leaves.

Two other houseplant offerings with intriguing foliage are South American natives also. *Iresine herb-stii*, the beefsteak plant, has dark red stems sporting heart-shaped leaves with dark red veins. Also available as a dividend is the cultivar 'Aureo-reticulata,' with greenish red foliage and yellow veins. These plants, like most with variegated or colorful foliage do best in a fairly sunny location in your home.

If you have a spot with bright light for a larger indoor plant, you may want to choose *Justicia carnea*, which goes by the common names Brazilian plume or flamingo plant. This South American plant is a vigorous, free-branching shrub that may reach six feet tall (usually less). It has long been a favorite for conservatories and warm indoor spaces. It is noted for its pink flower clusters at the stem tips in season.

Members with a taste for the exotic and with space indoors for a rampant vine should pick out *Passiflora quadrangularis*, perhaps the most striking of the passion flowers. The intricacy of its beautiful blossoms is nearly indescribable. Its fragrant four-inch blooms are tinted with various shades of blue, pink, purple and white. The plant is widely cultivated in the tropics for its edible fruit.



Above, *Pilea involucrata*.

Left, cones and needles of *Picea engelmannii*.

Back by popular demand this year is false heather, *Cuphea hyssopifolia*. It grows into a two-foot, thickly branched shrub with tiny, shiny green leaves. In summer the plant is covered with small pinkish flowers. This year we are also offering the white flowered cultivar 'Alba.' Supplies of this native of Mexico and Guatemala ran short last year; we are pleased to offer it to our members again.

## Outdoor Plants

Columbus likely never laid eyes on the outdoor species among this year's selections, as they are all natives of temperate regions of North America. Nevertheless, we are sure he would approve of these dependable plants, which are well adapted to our local growing conditions.

*Picea engelmannii*, Engelmann spruce, is a Rocky Mountain and Colorado native. Rather similar to Colorado spruce, this evergreen grows into a large, narrow, spire-like tree, eventually 50 feet or more tall. Its needles are an attractive blue-green. Some authors list it among the most desirable of spruces.

Several outdoor shrubs adapted to our local conditions will be available for your choice. *Cornus sericea*, the red-twig dogwood, probably needs no introduction. It's an attractive bush in summer, and its white spring blossoms and whitish summer fruits are unquestionably pleasing. However, this plant's big advantage comes later, when its bright red stems ignite an otherwise dull winter landscape.

Another colorful outdoor shrub you may select is *Rosa woodsii*, a wild shrub native throughout the Midwest and West. It may eventually reach six feet tall and wide. Its pink flowers appear from June to August.

Two good choices face members seeking native Colorado shrubs that are tolerant of reduced-water regimes. Western mountain mahogany, *Cercocarpus ledifolius*, is an upright shrub eventually reaching 15 feet or more. Its narrow foliage is evergreen.

*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, or rabbitbrush, is a variable shrub of four to six feet. Its foliage color ranges from bluish gray to green. In mid to late summer its stems are topped with fuzzy yellow flower clusters.

## Bring Your Card

To claim your free plant, bring your membership card to the patio outside the gift shop between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. One plant will be awarded for each membership number. Quantities are limited, so please come early for the best selection, and have an alternate choice in mind. A complete list of all selections and their cultural requirements will be available at the event.

For more information, call Michelle Gatewood, 370-8021.



## 4 Gather Ye Rose Petals—for Gift Shop

Because of the rainy weather this summer there's a dire shortage of rose petals for Avalonne Kosanke's potpourri workshops. The sachets and other items this group creates through the year are big money-makers for the Denver Botanic Gardens Gift Shop and boost the annual support for DBG projects by the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens.

Do you grow roses? How about collecting the petals for the potpourri ladies? According to Avalonne, you should gather them from full-blown blossoms (but not too old), early in the morning (but after the dew has evaporated from them). Let them dry and toss them into paper grocery bags (to keep the petals dry and let them "breathe"). Drop your petals off at the Gift Shop.

Call it recycling. Or call it helping the Gardens grow. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

*An abundance of fresh, garden-grown produce will be available at the Gardeners of America sale.*



## Garden for Health, Pleasures of Nature

DBG will host a one-day workshop Thursday, Oct. 1 on creating gardens and programs to enable people of all ages with special needs to get the benefits of gardening and the pleasures of nature.

"Enabling People to Garden" is conceived for teachers, social workers, nurses, therapists and others who work with not only the physically impaired, but youth at risk and others for whom an experience with plants would be spiritually and physically enlivening.

The workshop will feature the creative insights of Sharon Lovejoy, author of *Sunflower Houses*, a book of gardening activities for children, and draw upon the expertise of national leaders in horticultural therapy Eugene Rothert, Jr. of the Chicago Botanic Gardens and Dr. Richard Mattson, director of the horticultural therapy program at Kansas State University.

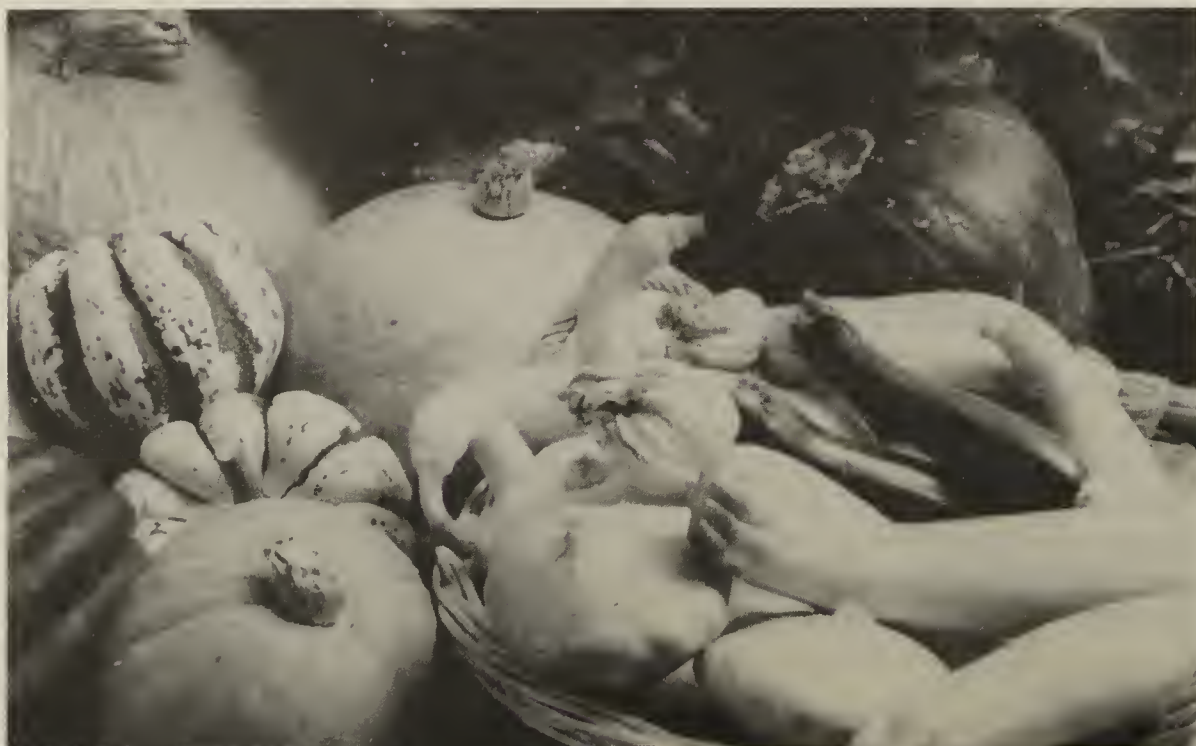
For information call 370-8020, or TDD 370-8032.

## Gardeners of America Sell Produce Sept. 12

The Denver chapter of Gardeners of America, formerly the Men's Garden Club of Denver, will hold its annual produce and plant sale at Denver Botanic Gardens Sunday, Sept. 12.

Usually held at the Botanic Gardens House parking lot, 909 York St., the exact location for this year's sale has not been decided but, as usual, it will be outside the entrance so customers don't need to pay admission. The sale begins at 9 a.m. and lasts until sell-out.

Produce and plants are from the gardens of club members. Proceeds, shared with DBG, support the club's educational programs.



## Who Are DBG's Conservatory Guides?

Last year some 4,000 visitors were given guided tours through Boettcher Memorial Conservatory. Preschoolers through college students, plant societies and seniors' groups—all learned fascinating facts about the food, fiber, medicine and ritual plants of the tropics with the assistance of DBG's volunteer guides.

The guides not only lead these regular visitor tours but, also, tours during other DBG events: new member orientation parties, Blossoms of Light and the spice tours of the Gardens' celebration of Columbus' first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

These guides have two things in common: an enthusiasm for plants and people, and completion of the Conservatory Guide Training course. What they don't have in common is great prior horticultural experience or botanical knowledge. It is the 11-session training that has prepared them to speak interestingly about the conservatory and its plants and to put our visitors at ease in an informal educational setting.

Each class includes a lecture by an expert on a group of plants and an orientation session in the conservatory. After completing the course, guides refresh their knowledge at free brown-bag lunch lectures that are held throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining DBG's corps of conservatory guides, studying the plants of Boettcher Memorial Conservatory and sharing their fascinating stories with other people, you will want to sign up for the fall training. It begins Tuesday, Sept. 15. You'll find details on page 14 of your summer Education Programs quarterly, or you may call 370-8020.

## '91 Annual Report Available Soon

Members may order a copy of the Denver Botanic Gardens 1991 Annual Report by calling 370-8076, or by picking one up at Botanic Gardens House, 909 York St., after Sept. 10.

The 24-page report details the year's activities in education, conservation and horticulture and presents the Gardens' financial standing at year's end. Also included are complete directories of the Gardens' facilities, trustees and staff.



## Poster Contest Solicits Fine Art

The 1993 Plant & Used Book Sale committee has announced that next year's poster will be selected through a competition among local artists.

The committee has issued a call for original oil or egg tempera paintings with a botanical or horticultural theme, the winner to be chosen by an independent jury of DBG members. The 40 runners-up will be displayed for sale at Savageau Gallery, 2230 Colfax Ave., in early May. The winning original art will be auctioned during the Plant & Used Book Sale's preview party.

As an encouragement to regional artists, the competition is open only to residents of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. The artist of the work chosen for the poster will receive a \$1,500 award and 200 copies of the poster.

The deadline for entry is Jan. 1, 1993; the winner will be announced in early February.

Previous DBG fine art posters by Boulder artist Gayle Crites and Niwot artist Len Schmiel have become popular collectors items. The contest was announced to bring attention to the sale and provide an opportunity for local artists who explore plant themes.

For information and complete entry rules send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: 1993 Plant Sale Poster Contest, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206.

## York Street, Chatfield Free Days in Sept.

Friday, Sept. 4, is a free day at Denver Botanic Gardens and Saturday, Sept. 19, is a free day at Chatfield Arboretum. An accord with the Denver City Council and the SCFD has allowed the Gardens to drop its regular admission one day apiece at the two sites for all Colorado residents.

For information about current events at 1005 York St. call 331-4000 and for information about Chatfield arboretum call 973-3705.

## Winter Fees & Hours

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, Denver Botanic Gardens will return to its winter schedule, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily. On Thursday, Oct. 1, admission fees fall back to \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors 65 and older and \$1 for children 6 to 15.

Chatfield Arboretum closes for the season Oct. 31, except for scheduled school tours.



*The Modern Jazz Quartet, on their 40th anniversary tour, close the 1992 KCFR / Botanic Gardens Concerts season with performances Sept. 3 and 4.*

## Chatfield 'Pumpkin Patch' in October

Looking forward to next month, set aside Saturday, Oct. 10, for "The Pumpkin Patch" festival at Chatfield Arboretum. It will be a full day of autumn family activities.

You may go pumpkin-picking, hop on a hayride, watch a puppet show, attend storytelling and nature programs and stroll among craft and food booths reminiscent of an old-fashioned fair.

The artistically inclined can even get a few pointers on modern pumpkin art from the folks at Pumpkin Ltd., originators of new, safer pumpkin carving instruments.

It's a fun, "country" way of ushering in the fall. Look for more details in the October *Green Thumb News*.

## A-Maizing Aztecs! Kids' Program

Families can visit the Gardens Sept. 26 to see and taste the life of the Aztecs.

"A-Maizing Aztecs!" is the next day of activities in the monthly program called Kidding Around. It's free, included in the Gardens' regular admission, and no registration is required.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. you can drop in, visit the Aztec Garden, learn about the amazing horticultural legacy of the Aztecs, plant some Aztec seeds and sample some of the food plants that the Aztecs gave to the rest of the world.

If you would like more information, call 370-8019.

## Museum Floral Art of Betty Brown Next Bonfils-Stanton Talk

The 1992 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series resumes Wednesday, Sept. 30, with a lecture on flower arranging by Betty Brown of Wayland, Massachusetts.

"How Art Blooms at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" will use brilliant photography and lively narration to look at the creations of expert flower arrangers for the Boston Museum's annual "Art in Bloom" show, to complement the museum's artworks. Her colorful program will recall the challenges of constructing both large and less formidable arrangements.

Brown's association with the museum spans sixteen years, during which time she has served as a member of the Ladies Committee and the Associates, and as a museum guide, flower arranger and photographer for special events. Brown comes to Denver as a volunteer; the fee for her lecture is a contribution to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Her slides will show how each arrangement captures the mood of a particular painting, sculpture or other art object and how each was keyed to the color, texture and composition of great works of art in the museum. Garden clubs and museums across the country have called on her to learn more about making art bloom in their museums.

This fourth Bonfils-Stanton Lecture in a series of five will be presented at 10 a.m. and, again, at 7 p.m. For ticket information call 370-8019.



*Betty Brown*



## *Nature Perfected; Gardens Through History*

By William Howard Adams.  
Abbeville Press, New York, \$49.95.  
SB451 .A3 1991

Adams has written a well-integrated garden history, bringing together the disparate impulses that make people make gardens.

The constraints of a survey like this require the author to hold in check his obvious knowledge, but throughout the book, he refers to other definitive writings to encourage further reading.

The introduction raises questions that frame the text that follows. How do religion, politics, culture and the desire to gain and display power effect the creation of gardens? Once built, how do these gardens influence our perceptions about ourselves and our culture? Adams returns to these questions again and again, answering them first from this perspective, then from another.

The book is divided into six sections, beginning with the gardens of antiquity, then the gardens of Rome, the Middle Ages, Islam and Mughal India. The divisions then follow the spread of civilization into Italy and France. Although most of the illustrations and plans are of important gardens, the author also informs us of ordinary ones too.

The last section deals with the American continent. The Aztec city of Tezcotinco had gardens filled with birds and animals, all "scientifically arranged"—a first attempt, perhaps, at a natural history garden.

Adams debunks some of the myths of Colonial American horticulture. Although there were many serious gardeners, a lot of the settlers in milder parts of the country merely depleted the soil then moved to greener pastures, literally.

In this section, too, he addresses 19th-century problems and 20th-century solutions. The works of landscape architects are featured in this discussion, leading to a search for a modern, American garden style. His closing plea is that we eschew fads and return to time-honored methods, that we "garden finely."

—Virginia Stratton,  
DBG volunteer

## NATURE PERFECTED GARDENS THROUGH HISTORY



### *The Golden Age of American Gardens*

By Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller.  
H. N. Abrams, Inc., New York, in  
association with The Garden Club of  
America, \$67.50. SB466 .U6 G75 1991

The response to a photograph of a lovely garden or beautiful plant creates pleasure in gardener and non-gardener alike. Then, too, we all want to record our successes, especially if they photograph well. From such simple impulses grew the collection of lantern slides with which The Garden Club of America captured the gardens of its members. The slides came from all parts of the country and provided not only views of the gardens but of the lives of their owners. This collection inspired this book, providing a visual history of major American gardens from 1890 to 1940.

Along both coasts and across the country, magnificent landscapes were photographed in their fountained and flower-filled glory.

A candid, gossipy good humor sets the tone of the text, and allays, if only slightly, the cloying litany of the privileges enjoyed by the very rich. At times the text strays into social fields only tenuously connected to the gardens themselves. When we are told how Elsie de Wolfe introduced an art expert to his rich patron, do we dare whisper, "Elsie de Who?" But at its best this work devotes pages to sensitive and informed writing about outstanding designs by America's foremost landscape architects.

—Virginia Stratton

### *Fitness the Dynamic Gardening Way*

By Jeffrey P. Restuccio. Balance of  
Nature Publishing, Cordova,  
Tennessee. \$12.95. RA 781 .R4 1992

Are you bored with workouts at the club, with pumping iron, with miles that go nowhere on your exercise bicycle? Or, worse, have you lost the motivation to exercise at all?

This new book suggests you try gardening as an exercise program. Outlining specific ways to dig, plant and weed your way to fitness, the author includes workouts with the compost pile for aerobic exercise.

For those who have tried dieting, Restuccia points out that the superior flavors of homegrown fruits and vegetables can motivate you to modify your diet to include more of these low-fat foods. And, of course, calories are burned in the growing.

Gardening is also a great stress reducer. Many of us know how spending time tending a garden can provide an escape from daily worries and personal dramas. This is why therapists have found horticulture to be so healing.

While exercise, sustainable gardening, visualization and gardening with children are not new, combining them into a "new approach to fitness" certainly is. Look in this book for ideas to improve your well-being through gardening and to feel good about what you, as a gardener, are already doing.

—Rebecca Haller,  
DBG horticultural therapist



## Perennials: Toward Continuous Bloom

Edited by Ann Lovejoy. Capability's Books, Deer Park, WI, \$17.95. SB434 .P43 1991

This collection of essays written by gardeners across the United States and edited by *Horticulture* magazine's Ann Lovejoy is the first of what the publisher hopes will be a series of anthologies covering an array of gardening topics.

The book is divided into six sections of loosely related topics. It appears the authors were given free rein to write whatever interested them about the subject of perennials. Traditional topics such as interesting color combinations and proper culture are discussed thoroughly. But other authors range from planning a wedding theme garden to using penguins to add whimsy to a winter border.

The writers' opinions differ greatly, and some of their advice is contradictory. This aptly demonstrates that gardening is subjective, that rules should only be used as guidelines or points of departure for further experimentation.

The wildest and most unexpected piece is Patti Hagan's "Gardening: Countering the Crack Attack." Other authors start by describing the problems particular to their region—complaining of the extremes of heat and cold, even in balmy zone 8. But even spells of minus 30-degree temperature cannot compare to the horror, as Hagan recounts, of returning home from work to find that every flower and shrub that was in bloom earlier in the day had been dug up and carted off to be sold in exchange for drug money. Gardeners who do not face such difficulties will find themselves grateful to be battling "kinder, gentler pests—aphids, grubs, bugs and slugs."

Lovejoy's purpose was to provide a forum for American gardeners to share their experiences. Their personalities and styles are as diverse as their topics. The result is little polish, much charm. You will find that some essays apply to your own circumstance, while others are quite foreign. But you will discover that, while gardens may be very different from one region of the country to another, gardeners share a common bond—in their thoughts, in their frustrations and in the pleasures of their achievements.

—Marcia Tatroe,  
Colorado style garden designer

## Xeriscape Gardening

By Connie Ellefson, Thomas Stephens and Doug Welsh. MacMillan, New York. \$30. SB 495.83 .E5 1992

Even though the xeriscape movement, which originated in Denver, has spread across the nation, there is little information available with national scope. This book is the first to cover the seven principles of xeriscaping in depth.

Each principle is discussed in its own chapter, which greatly clarifies the subject and gives a good understanding of not only the techniques but why they are necessary. You will still want to consult works written specifically for our area; indeed, Ellefson recommends this. Jim Knopf's *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener* is our best choice.

The chapters on planning and design, the most important steps for successful design and economical maintenance, were written by Stephens. He guides us through the necessary steps in great detail. Even if you're not planning a garden, this chapter will help you identify areas that may need improvement or correction, and tell you how to accomplish your job.

Welsh wrote on irrigation and watering, including water harvesting. Even though he details many kinds of automatic irrigation systems available, he makes the point, "Irrigation systems don't save water. People do."

Ellefson also discusses appropriate plants for all regions of the country. After years of reading gardening books that give short shrift to the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, it's wonderful to find more written for these areas than for the East Coast. Extensive plant lists are arranged by the water needs of the plants. In the mountain regions elevation is used as a guide. Because xeriscaping is so site-specific, the lists don't all follow the same format and are meant, despite their comprehensive detail, only as guides.

Please note, the word "Xeriscape" is a trademark of the National Xeriscape Council.

—Virginia Stratton

## Library Has TV, VCR

To make its growing collection of videotapes readily available to visitors, Helen Fowler Library has installed a television set and VCR for in-library viewing. A complete list of videotapes on horticulture, landscaping, botany and related fields is in the library. Members may check them out.

## Pesman Wildflower Classic Meet the Natives Reprinted

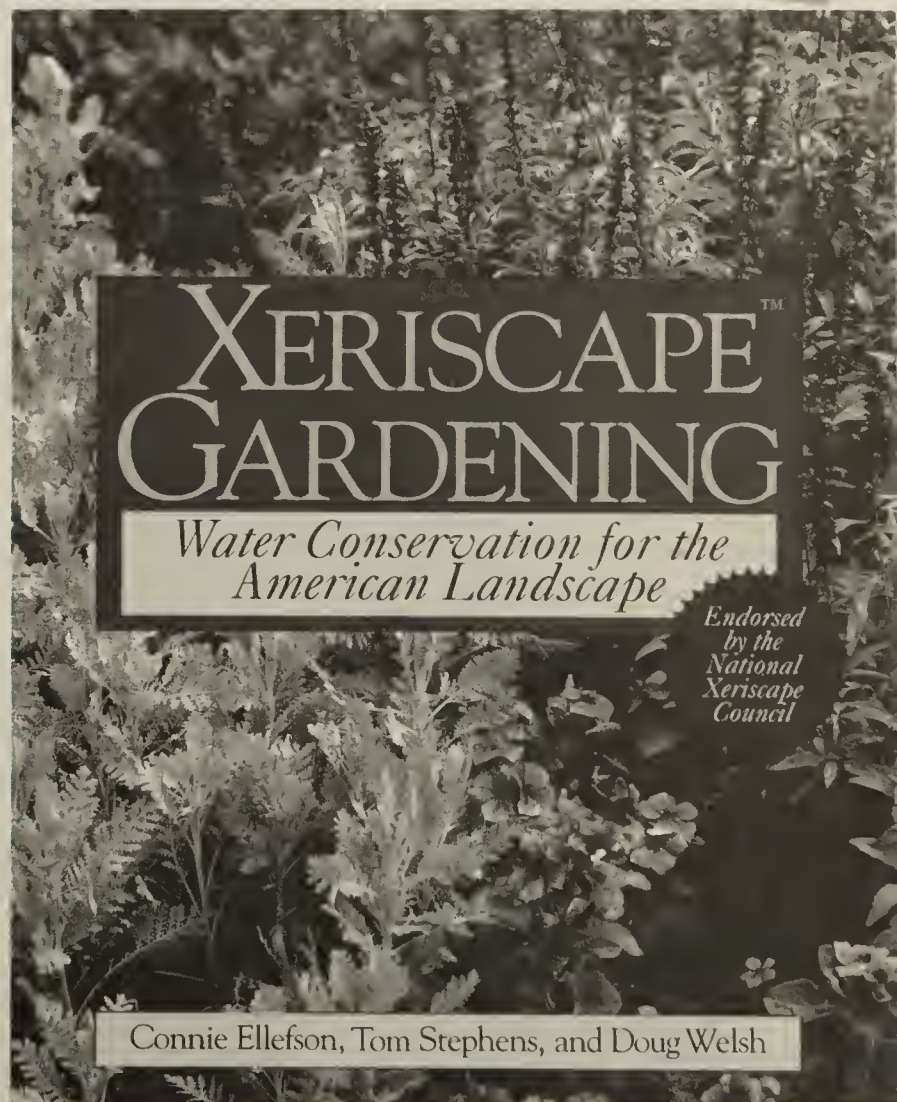
7

The classic Rocky Mountain wildflower identification guide for beginners, M. Walter Pesman's *Meet the Natives*, has been reprinted and is again available in the DBG Gift Shop after being out of print for two years.

Published on the 50th anniversary of the first edition, this ninth edition contains 16 new drawings by botanist Janet Wingate, nomenclature updated by members of DBG's herbarium committee and a new forward by DBG trustee Moras Shubert. Its cover features the watercolors of noted wildflower artist Emma Irvin.

Meet the Natives is a favorite of amateurs because it contains abundant line drawings of native wildflowers conveniently arranged by elevation and by flower color. It is comprehensive, yet simple to use.

The price of the ninth edition is \$12.95. Published by Roberts Rinehart Publishers of Niwot, Colo., it will also be sold in state and national parks. However, DBG members receive a 10-percent discount in the DBG Gift Shop.





Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

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Denver, Colorado 80206

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SEPTEMBER

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☉ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the Summer *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- 1-9 Glass at the Gardens (continued)
- 1 *Aquatic Plant Walk*
  - \* *Beginning Botanical Drawing*
- 2 \* *Low-water Landscape Plants*
- 3, 4 KCFR/Botanic Gardens Concert • Modern Jazz Quartet
- 4 Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day
- 10 \* *Intermediate Ikebana Lessons*
- 12 Gardeners of America Produce Sale
  - Fall Composting*
  - Food Market Field Trip*
  - ☉ *Herb Walk*
  - Nature Photography at Rocky Mountain National Park*
  - Plains Garden Walk*
- 13 *Cooking with Herbs*
  - ☉ *Harvest Moon Picnic & Hike*
  - Japanese Tea Ceremony*
  - Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden, Evergreen*
- 14 \* *Drawing from Nature*
  - \* *Natural Style Flower Arranging*
- 15 \* *Conservatory Guide Training*
  - \* *Landscape Plant Materials*

- 16 *Discover America's Plants*
  - \* *Watercolor Painting*
- 17 \* *Beginning Bonsai*
- 18-20 Petals & Threads Quilt Show & Sale
- 18 \* *Reversible Japanese Field Jacket (Hippari)*
  - \* *Using Designs from Nature in Machine Appliqués*
- 19 Chatfield Arboretum Free Day
  - ☉ *Fall Wildflower Walk*
  - Gathering for Winter Plant Activities*
  - Japanese Tea Ceremony*
  - Horseshoe Park Field Trip*
- 21 \* *Melon Basket*
- 23 \* *Introduction to Horticultural Therapy*
  - \* *Plants of the Conservatory*
- 26 Kidding Around at York Street
  - Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours*
  - French Omelette with African Herbs*
  - \* *Natural Fiber Basketry*
  - ☉ *Potpourri Workshop*
- 27 *Tree Walk at Fairmount Cemetery*
- 30 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture, Betty Brown, *Art in Bloom*

## Create Memories for Your Children at Lovejoy Workshop

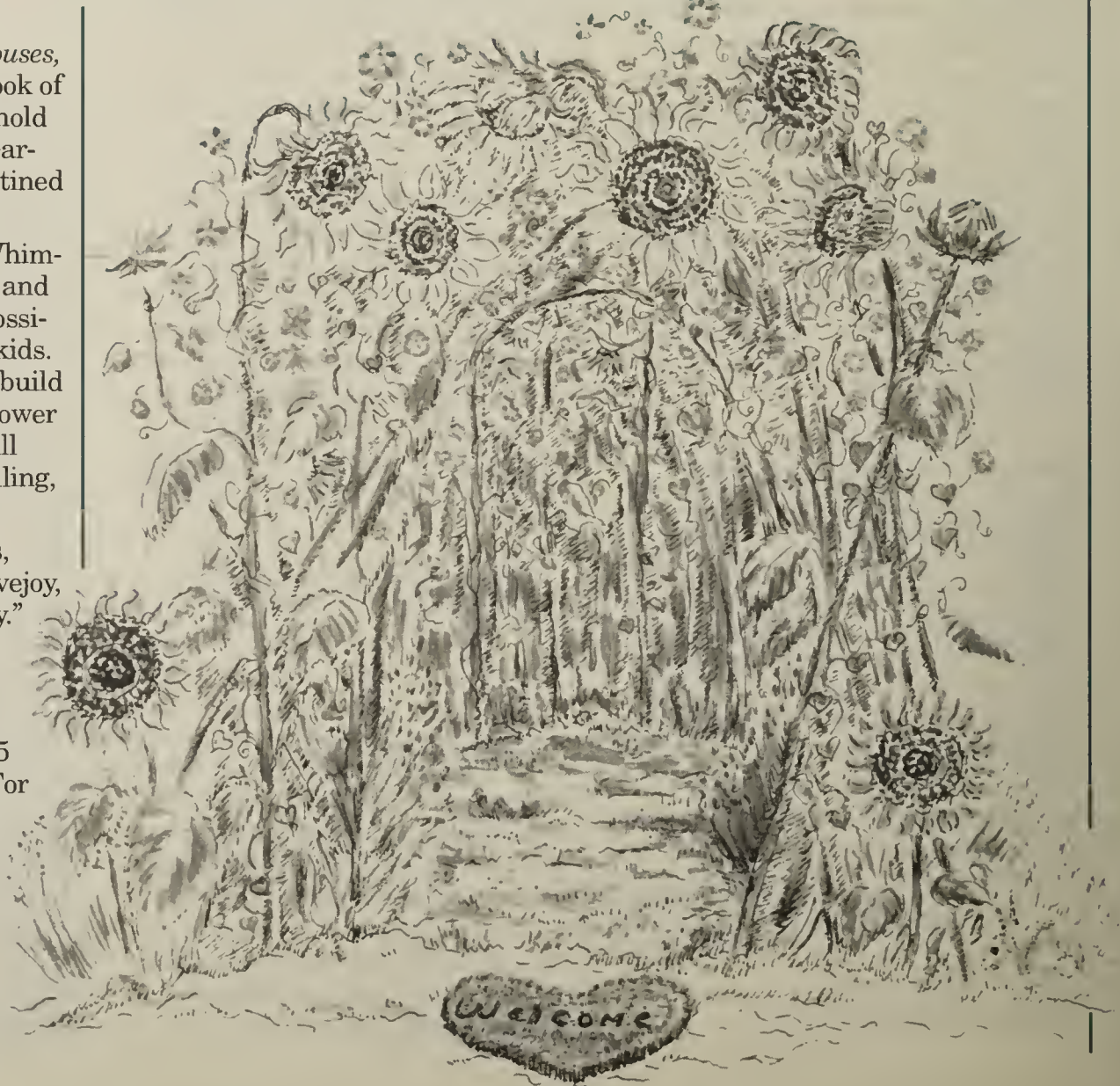
"My summer home is the fairest of all, with a morning glory roof and sunflower walls!"  
—Sharon Lovejoy, *Sunflower Houses*

Sharon Lovejoy, author of the recently published *Sunflower Houses*, Interweave Press, a charming book of gardening projects for kids, will hold a workshop at Denver Botanic Gardens for children and adults, destined to create wonderful memories.

The workshop, "Gardens of Whimsey and Delight," will involve you and your child (grandchild?) in the possibilities of garden spaces just for kids. Afterward you will know how to build your own butterfly garden, sunflower house or bean teepee. Lovejoy will accompany her tips with storytelling, slides and flowers.

"Once you care about gardens, birds, bugs and flowers," says Lovejoy, "you will never have a boring day."

Bring a child to this Sunday afternoon workshop, Oct. 4., to awaken in her or him this sense of excitement. Registration is \$15 for a child and an adult couple. For information call youth education specialist Carol Knepp, 370-8043.





## Catch Autumn's Spirit at Chatfield Pumpkin Festival

Denver Botanic Gardens' annual autumn celebration is the Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum Saturday, Oct. 10. Activities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Acres of pumpkins have been growing all summer in the Pumpkin Patch, and all shapes and sizes are ripe and ready to pick. They will be perfect for the decorating and carving activities at the festival, for which each visitor may pick his or her own pumpkin. (While admission is free, pumpkin pickers will be asked a fee for their prospective jack-o-lanterns.)

Vendors and crafters will be on hand, among them a professional photographer to capture your child in an autumn setting. Pumpkin Ltd., a Denver craft tool company, will demonstrate decorative pumpkin carving, and there will be wood carvers, and others. Booths will also feature dried flowers, Indian corn, honey, herbed vinegars and home-baked goods.

There will be freebies, as well. California Pistachio Growers will hand out samples and Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear will chat with children about the environment. The Colorado State University Extension Service will be on hand to dispense horticultural and domestic information and their popular pumpkin cookbook.

Radio station KOOL-105 will have a celebrity disk jockey announcing winners of a variety of give-aways during the festival.

Jefferson County Schools will sell food: hot and cold sandwiches, chili, cookies and beverages.

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

**Denver Botanic Gardens  
October 1992  
Number 92-10**



*Pumpkins and pumpkin-carvers alike share smiles at the Chatfield Arboretum Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 10. The event also features craft demonstrations and sales.*

*From the Director  
page 2*

*African Violet Sale  
page 3*

*Master Plan  
page 4*

*Tempel Lecture  
page 5*

*More Pumpkins  
page 6*

*Guild Harvest  
page 7*





## From the Executive Director

The Denver Botanic Gardens initiated a new Community Outreach Program last fall to extend the benefits of our education programs throughout the six-county metropolitan area.

After nearly a year, we can report the great success of "The Green Branch," as the program is called, thanks to the leadership of outreach coordinator Gina Lee and community gardens coordinator Judy Elliott and the excellent planning that preceded the program by interim executive director Bruce Alexander and director of education Pat Pachuta.

We have been in touch with groups from the Globeville neighborhood association to the Littleton Community Center, from the Malley Recreation Center in Englewood to the Clare Gardens Housing Project in North Denver.

At Clare Gardens we are working with residents to grow vegetables to improve their diets and flowers to improve their neighborhood. A new community garden will follow.

At the Thomas Bean Towers in central Denver we worked with the residents, an ethnic mixture of seniors and the disabled, to re-landscape their grounds.

In all, we offered fifty classes and workshops, held dozens of meetings, developed many hands-on projects and distributed more than 10,000 flower seed packets.

What a great start it has been for this wonderful program, made possible by the support of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

—Richard H. Daley

## Green Thumb News Number 92-10 October 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for December issue: Oct. 16

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.



## Tributes

### In honor of Ruth Porter Waring's 103rd Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Edward White III

### In memory of W. K. Anderson

Ms. Sandra McKinney

### In memory of William J. Boorman

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

### In memory of Charles F. Brannan

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

### In memory of

#### Linda Douglas Campbell

Dr. Louis N. Ashkar

Employees of BiltBest Windows

The Medical Staff at

The Children's Hospital

Dr. F. A. Garcia

Ms. Solange G. Gignac

Mr. Don Harlan

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Holleman

Mr. & Mrs. Beverly S. Hutter, Jr.

Mr. Howard A. Klamann

Dr. & Mrs. Richard P. Koeppe

Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Kuesel

Ms. Dorothy B. Loyd

Ms. Evelyn McLagan

Dr. & Mrs. William B. Miller

Mr. Ron Myles

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Schranz

Dr. & Mrs. Walter Schreck

Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert

Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Stonington

Mr. Fletcher Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Valente

Mrs. Mary Washburne

### In memory of Hazel W. Dalziel

Mrs. Robert S. Gast

### In memory of Eleanor Eliason

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

### In memory of Gloria Falkenberg

Mrs. Joseph S. Davis

Ms. Mary Harpole

### In memory of James A. Greenfield

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Curtis

### In memory of Jack Ramsay Harris

Ms. Mary Belle M. Grant

Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant

### In memory of Eddie Kawakami

Dr. & Mrs. Max Kaplan

### In memory of Mary Klinger

Ms. Phyllis R. Fischer

Ms. E. Sidney Glick

Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert

### In memory of Elaine La Tronico

Ms. Elizabeth Heacock

### In memory of Lawrence Long

Mrs. Joseph S. Davis

### In memory of Deborah S. Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Emery

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin F. Stapleton

### In memory of Geraldine Ott

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

### In memory of Catherine M. Riley

Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Kuesel

### In memory of Dorothy Robertson

Ms. Kathleen Axton

### In memory of Marcia Trout

Ms. Charlyne P. Graul

### In memory of

#### Margaret "Peggy" Patrick

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister

Ms. Lyda Conway

Mrs. Joseph S. Davis

Mr. John Falkenberg

Ms. Solange G. Gignac

Mrs. Richard Girouard

Ms. E. Sydney Glick

Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant

Mr. D. Deane Hall, Jr.

Mrs. T. R. Johnson

Dr. & Mrs. Richard P. Koeppe

Mr. & Mrs. Earl N. Korber

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Kosanke

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Lammle &

R&D Systems

Ms. Lydia McCollum

Ms. Bette Munns

Dr. & Mrs. Max Raabe

Ms. Emily W. Roessing

Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert

Mr. Kenneth W. Slump

Ms. Shirley Sweetman

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

Ms. Teresa R. Varni

Ms. Margaret Wallace

Nancy & Judy Walsh

Mrs. Mary Washburne

Mr. & Mrs. David Wyatt

### In memory of Sandra Zeitlin

Mrs. L. Richard Girouard

Ms. E. Sydney Glick

Ms. Georgia Greenemeier



## Trustee, Volunteer 'Peggy' Patrick Dies

Margaret "Peggy" Patrick, long-time Denver Botanic Gardens trustee and chairman of the Gardens' membership subcommittee died July 8.

Quiet and soft-spoken, she was nevertheless the motivating force behind much progress in member and visitor relations at the Gardens. She instituted the Gardens' volunteer-manned information desk and chaired or co-chaired the members' "Herald the Season" holiday party.

In the years when DBG staffing was lean, she led the membership subcommittee in organizing and putting on all the special events for members—new member parties, the annual plant dividend day, the annual members' dinner and the members' picnic at Chatfield Arboretum.

She was also a past president of the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, the organization responsible for the DBG Gift Shop and the annual Plant and Used Book Sale, two of the Gardens largest and most dependable sources of support.

Her lifelong interest in science led her from a career as a licensed medical technician into botany and horticulture—and volunteering at DBG and Bethesda Medical Center.

She was married to Mr. Norman Patrick.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Denver Botanic Gardens.

## Rosarian Linda Campbell Dies

Linda Lee Campbell, wife of Denver Botanic Gardens trustee Dr. William Campbell, died July 28.

An expert rosarian and cheerful volunteer, she was a champion of miniature and heritage rose varieties. She and her husband owned High Country Rosarium, a Colorado nursery that breeds hardy roses and specializes in species and old-fashioned shrub roses. She organized several old-fashioned rose shows at Denver Botanic Gardens and was a volunteer for many Gardens rose events.

She was a president of the Denver and Arapahoe rose societies and an official in the American Rose Society.

A Colorado native, she had degrees from the University of Colorado and the University of Denver in physical therapy and health care management. She assisted Dr. Campbell in his practice as a pediatric urologist.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Denver Botanic Gardens.



The Green Branch, DBG's community outreach program, brought residents of Thomas Bean Towers and the Gardens' staff together for a neighborhood beautification project.

## July & August Employees of the Month Named

If you look in the dictionary under "professional," you're likely to find the name Pauline.

A true believer in customer service, Pauline walks and talks that message, both internally and externally. She is a concerned individual, loyal and extremely conscientious.

We salute a real class act, Pauline Donohue, executive secretary to the executive director, July employee of the month.

Kathy Kircher was named August employee of the month for maintaining her areas of responsibility at a consistently high quality and for her ability to respond quickly to notification of development department and related events occurring outside the Waring House. Kathy works well with a wide variety of people and is dedicated to the field of horticulture. This results in many compliments from our special guests on the appearance of the Terrace Garden and its container plantings.

Kathy received a degree in liberal studies from Bowling Green State University, a diploma in ornamental horticulture from Foothills College in Los Altos, CA, and is currently pursuing a degree in biology at the Auraria Campus. She has been on staff for one-and-a-half years.

Congratulations, Pauline and Kathy.

## African Violet Council Sells Plants

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council, an alliance of about 30 African violet clubs along the Front Range, will sell plants at the Gardens Saturday, Oct. 17, 1 to 4 p.m.

This annual fall sale is known for its amazing variety and quantity of African violet plants, from new starts to huge specimens. For those indoor gardeners who appreciate these pretty, free-blooming plants, the show is as fun to browse as it is to shop.

For information call Debbie Grifeth, 937-0276.

## Kidding Around With Gourds

Visit the Gardens Saturday, Oct. 24, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a bit of "Kidding Around," free craft and learning activities for children and families. October's activities in this series of monthly make-it and take-it events will focus on gourds and the creatures you can make from them.

Activities take place in the lobby. Call 370-8020 for more information.





## Master Plan Q&A

**Q:** Will the Gardens acquire new land to accommodate Master Plan changes?

**A:** No new land will be added to the York Street site. The Gardens will remain within its present boundaries.

**Q:** Will there be a loss of green space as the Master Plan is carried out?

**A:** No. In fact, a new Garden of the American West to be built atop the parking structure will actually add green space.

**Q:** How will the new parking structure and visitor facilities affect the sight lines currently available from the area around the flag pole?

**A:** The vistas from the parking structure's roof garden actually will be enhanced. Visitors should have magnificent views of the interior of the Gardens, the downtown Denver skyline, the mountains to the west, and perhaps as far south as Pike's Peak.

**Q:** How will new gardens, buildings and horticultural improvements be financed?

**A:** Major new gardens—such as the Fragrance Garden and Children's Garden—will be financed entirely through private donations. Because of the difficulty in soliciting private funds for a parking structure, it will probably be financed through a combination of revenue bonds and general obligation bonds issued by the City of Denver. The timing of the bond issue—and hence the construction of the parking structure—depends upon the city's bonding situation. Actual construction of the parking structure probably won't begin for five to seven years.

**Q:** How will the present Community Gardens be affected?

**A:** Eventually the Community Gardens will be replaced by a Home Gardening Center that will have informational and educational spaces dedicated to popular gardening interests. This new teaching and demonstration garden could serve up to 100,000 home gardeners each year. At the same time, DBG officials are aggressively seeking a new site for the present Community Gardens.

## Master Plan Moves Through Approval Process

The recently announced 20-year Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Denver Botanic Gardens has received formal approval from the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation, marking the completion of the initial stages of the plan's implementation.

The Parks Department approval is a major milestone in the two-year effort by the Board of Trustees and the staff to chart the long-term future of the Gardens.

The Board of Trustees formally adopted the plan at its May 26 meeting this year. The plan calls for an estimated \$40 million in horticultural improvements to the York Street gardens and for the eventual construction of a \$10-million under-

ground parking structure on the site of the present parking lot between York and Josephine streets.

The proposed 700-space parking structure will be designed to reduce on-street parking and traffic congestion in the neighborhood while significantly improving visitor access to the Gardens. The structure is expected to accommodate an increasing number of visitors well into the 21st Century.

Parks Department approval followed an extensive campaign by the trustees to solicit community opinions and suggestions that began with the establishment of a Community Advisory Group in late 1990. This group was composed of neighborhood and community leaders who provided a number of valuable recommendations for the Gardens' future.

Many of their ideas were incorporated into the plan, which was created by Environmental Planning and Design of Pittsburgh, an international leader in the design of botanic gardens. The Community Advisory Group received a follow-up briefing on the plan's progress at a meeting in early June this year.

Also in June, Board President Newell M. Grant and Executive Director Richard H. Daley began a series of meetings with all of the city agencies with an interest in the plan, and on June 9 held a major briefing for the Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, which subsequently endorsed the plan.

Informational meetings and briefings were held for a number of neighborhood and community organizations, including the Morgan's Historic District Homeowners' Association and Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc.(CHUN). The Morgan's District adjoins the Gardens immediately south of the York Street site.

In addition, briefings were held for the region's two major daily newspapers, and a news conference helped get information about the plan to all Colorado print and broadcast media. Both *The Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News* published editorials strongly supporting the plan.

Some 260 civic and community organizations throughout the Denver metropolitan area were invited to a major public meeting at the Gardens on August 9.

In response to citizen questions at some of the meetings, Executive Director Daley noted that the Master Plan calls for the eventual replacement of the present community gardens with a Home Gardening Center.

Daley explained that while the community gardens are one of DBG's most successful programs, the two-acre area currently serves about 250 gardeners each year, while the proposed Home Gardening Center could serve as many as 100,000 persons a year.

The Home Gardening Center will offer information and exhibits of value to an array of gardening enthusiasts, ranging from container gardening instruction for apartment and condo dwellers to information on vegetable gardening, xeriscaping, flowers, trees and shrubs for backyard gardeners.

At the same time, Daley emphasized that DBG is aggressively looking for alternative sites for the community gardens, and that the new Home Gardening Center won't be built for another five to seven years.

The proposed new parking structure won plaudits at several of the community meetings. The skillful design of the structure, which capitalizes on natural terrain features, will allow DBG visitors to enter and exit the gardens rapidly and conveniently.

Other features of the Master Plan that drew praise from meeting participants included the proposed Children's Garden and the proposed Fragrance Garden.

*Above, John Prosser, a leading Colorado architect and consultant on the proposed Gardens' parking structure, explains details of the master plan.*





## Hoosier Pass Subject of Free Tempel Lecture

"Wildflowers of Hoosier Pass" are the subject of Louise Roloff's program for the 1992 Carl W. Tempel Wildflower Lecture at the Gardens Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.

Roloff is an experienced wildflower botanist and mountain climber. She has climbed over 200 peaks in the United States, Canada and Africa, including Kilimanjaro. She began identifying wildflowers as a guide for the University of Colorado mountain recreation department in 1934, and as a recreation worker with the Red Cross during World War II she helped organize a wildflower show on Attu Island in the Aleutians, Alaska.

A retired recreation instructor living in Dillon, she now observes, "I do not walk very far or very fast, but I have time to look at all of the plants and wildlife along the way." She has an exceptional knowledge of the wildflowers of Colorado.

The beautiful Colorado subjects of her talk—Hoosier Pass, South Park and the Mosquito Range—are areas rich in unusual plants, many of which are rarely seen elsewhere.

The Carl W. Tempel Wildflower Lecture is free and open to the public. It was inaugurated in 1979 to honor Major General Carl W. Tempel. For more information call 370-8019.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers provide essential assistance in many areas of Denver Botanic Gardens. Among the opportunities for volunteer service are the Gift Shop, Chatfield Arboretum naturalist guides, conservatory guides, outdoor guides, Sensory Garden guides, garden and greenhouse work, hospitality, information desk, library, clerical work, art work, special events, Annual Plant & Used Book Sale, Blossoms of Light, the Chatfield Pumpkin Festival and many other activities tailored to your talents and interests.

The DBG Guild has opportunities for volunteers who wish to learn more about herbs and dried flowers.

To offer your services or to request an application for membership in volunteer organizations, please call the volunteer coordinator at 370-8049.



Photographer Bob Heapes caught this photo of the Gardens newest resident, a shy, but well-fed, yellow-bellied marmot.

## New Kids' Classes Encourage Adult Interests

In the past, certain adult classes have greatly appealed to children who are members or are affiliated with the Gardens. Now, three adult-format classes are being offered in October by the DBG education department for these children with special interests.

The Carnivores, a joint class with the Denver Zoo on plant and animal "carnivores," Bonsai for Kids, an introductory class for growing bonsai; and Young Botanical Illustrators, basics on drawing plants, are offered in the fall Education Programs quarterly.

To register, call 370-8019. If you are interested in other topics, please call the youth education specialist, 370-8043, with your suggestions.

## Chatfield Free Day Oct. 24

Saturday, Oct. 24, is the last free day of the year at Chatfield Arboretum. The regular \$1 gate fee for those who are not members of Denver Botanic Gardens will be waived to encourage new visitors to enjoy its many amenities. The Arboretum closes for the season Oct. 31, except for scheduled school tours, so plan to visit this month for an autumn stroll.

Birdwatchers, especially, will be rewarded for their visit: Migrating birds will be abundant in the grasslands, wetlands and woods. It will also be a good chance to catch the very last of the autumn wildflowers.

Chatfield Arboretum visitor guides, complete with a map to help you locate it, are available at the information desk at 1005 York St.

## English Gardener, Author Verey Closes Bonfils-Stanton '92

Rosemary Verey, noted English gardener and author and the owner of the famed Barnsley House near Cirencester in Gloucestershire, will be the final speaker in the 1992 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series Wednesday, Oct. 28. Her talk will be presented at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St.

Verey will speak on "The Scented Garden."

One of the great ladies of gardening, Verey lectures the world over. Her garden at Barnsley House delights all who visit. It was the star of the spring 1992 DBG tour itinerary and in 1988 was awarded Christie's Garden of the Year award. It has been featured in several American magazines: *Garden Design*, *Architectural Digest* and *House and Garden*.

A prolific author, Verey's books include *The Scented Garden* (1981), *Classic Garden Design* (1984), *The Flower Arranger's Garden* (1989), *A Countrywoman's Notes* (1991) and *The Garden in Winter* (1988). She is co-editor of *The American Woman's Garden* and editor of *The American Man's Garden*.

Reservations for "The Scented Garden" are \$5 each, \$8 for nonmembers. For information call 370-8020.



Rosemary Verey



Botanists make no clear distinction between winter squashes and pumpkins. However, "pumpkin" is usually reserved for the orange or yellow cultivars used for eating or making jack-o-lanterns.

These golden symbols of autumn are of uncertain origin. Generally thought to be American, their seeds have also been found in ancient Asian ruins and they are mentioned in African and Indochinese mythology. So, although they may have originated in the Americas, they also may have been brought to the Western Hemisphere when northeast Asians migrated across the Bering Strait around 13,000 B.C. Pumpkin seeds have also been found in Peruvian ruins dating from 1800 B.C. and in prehistoric Colorado cliff dwellings.

One fact is certain: American Indians were growing pumpkins—among their corn to conserve space—for centuries before the first European explorers came to the Americas. Pumpkins quickly became favorites of the early European settlers, and they have held on to their popularity through the centuries.

Cooks have prepared the flesh of the pumpkin to create soups, stews, pies, breads, cookies, cakes and even ice cream. The seeds are delicious roasted; they have also been used medicinally in pumpkin seed tea. But perhaps the oddest use was the New England custom of turning pumpkin shells upside down on men's heads before a haircut to serve as a guide for trimming. Hence, the term "pumpkinhead."

Of course, the most creative and mystical function of pumpkins is to serve as jack-o-lanterns. This practice has had a long and curious evolution.

Its roots can be traced to a ceremony by the ancient Celts of Britain. They observed the end of the agrarian year by making sacrifices to their



gods in thanks for the harvest and in hope of receiving protection during the dark and dreary winter months ahead. They offered portions of their crops in a ritualistic bonfire as dancers circled it holding huge turnips carved into grotesque images. This was to ward off the souls of the dead, believed to be permitted to return to earth for the one night.

The Irish and Scots continued to use turnips to make jack-o-lanterns, lighting a candle inside to scare away evil spirits. When they immigrated to America they found pumpkins much better suited for it.

The term jack-o-lantern is derived from an Irish legend of a stingy trickster named Jack. When he died he was turned from the gates of heaven because of his meanness. When he descended to hell the devil also rejected him; he had even broken his promises to the devil.

"You will have to roam the earth," said the devil.

"What will I use for light?" asked Jack.

The devil tossed him a glowing coal. Jack put it in a turnip for his lamp.

He has been roaming the earth ever since, looking for a place to rest.

—Ken Slump

## Hurricane Hits Miami's Fairchild Garden

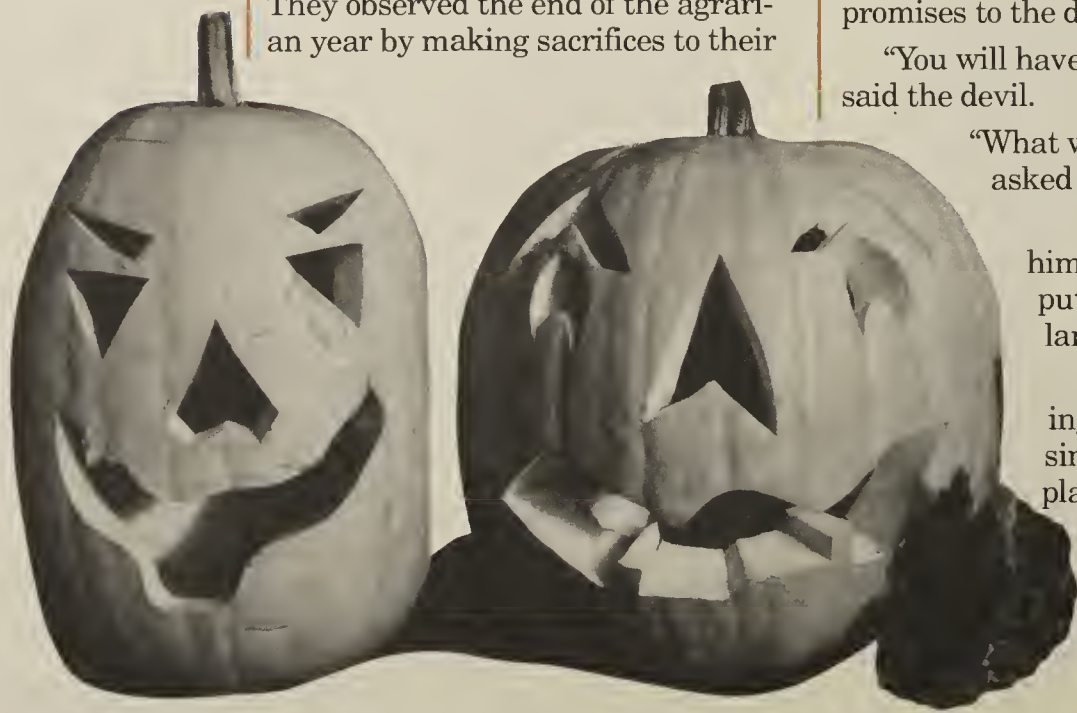
In August the devastation of Hurricane Andrew filled the news. One of America's premier botanic gardens, Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, was severely damaged.

Dr. William McKinley Klein, director of the garden and a former professor of botany at Colorado State University, reports that 50 to 70 percent of the garden's collections were destroyed.

The goal now, according to Klein, is not simply to clean up but to preserve the remaining collections and to garner as much information from the storm's effect as possible. In 1987 a storm severely damaged Kew Gardens near London. The model of Kew's experience and its subsequent study of the plants, such as growth rates of downed trees, will be used at Fairchild.

Dr. Klein and Denver Botanic Gardens' present executive director Richard Daley were involved in providing help to Kew after that storm. The Denver Botanic Gardens has contributed to Fairchild Tropical Garden's recovery and has offered further assistance as its work goes forward.

Watch for this winner of the 1993 All-America Selections, Pumpkin Baby Bear, at your local vegetable stand.





## Author Jovejoy Gives Kids' Whimsy Garden Workshop Oct. 4

Do you enjoy sharing with children a garden alive with birds, bugs and unusual, fun flowers? As a child, did you plant a pole bean teepee?

Sunday, Oct. 4, you can relive your own childhood garden memories while helping create new ones for a favorite child in a workshop by Sharon Lovejoy, gardener and author of the enchanting book, *Sunflower Houses*. The workshop, "Gardens of Whimsy and Delight," is at 2:30 p.m.

You will be engaged in interactive activities and storytelling designed to be shared by an adult and child, both learning how to join in designing, planting and enjoying a garden. You will be inspired and excited to begin next year's garden now.

More information is available in the fall Education Programs quarterly. To register, use the form in the quarterly or call 370-8019. A registration fee of \$15 is for the participation of one adult and one child.

## Free For Gardeners

The GTN editor often receives notices of free things for gardeners to send for. Here are a few. If your mailbox has been a bit empty lately, this is also a good way to get on gardening mailing lists.

Homeowners and municipalities looking for information on compost bins and equipment can send for a free list of sources from the American Horticultural Society. This is not a how-to on composting. Send a business-size stamped and self-addressed envelope to: Compost Sources, AHS National Home Compost Park, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308.

"Landscaping...It Works for Everyone!" is a four-color brochure on the values of landscaping to home buyers, home sellers, neighborhoods and the environment. It has some interesting facts you might pass on to your own real estate agent or landscaping client. Get it from: Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 405 N. Washington St., Suite 104, Falls Church, VA 22046.

For tips on lawn mower safety, send SASE to: The Toro News Center, 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437.

For a brochure on low-cost, high-quality greenhouses, call: Julianna Greenhouses, 1-800-356-8890.

## Guild Harvests Through Summer for Holiday Sale

Harvesting is a summer-long activity at DBG. If you visited the Gardens on any Tuesday morning during the summer you may have seen members of the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild picking flowers to dry for the 1992 DBG Holiday Sale, Nov. 20 and 21. Now every possible nook and cranny in the library basement and elsewhere are packed with hanging hanks of plants, aromatic as a loft of hay, colorful as a summer flower garden. The unusual grasses and flowers are ready to be made into long-lasting arrangements and to decorate holiday wreaths.

Last month Guild members harvested herbs from the Herb Garden for their traditional vinegars. Six flavors will be offered at this year's sale. Besides the familiar (famous!) tarragon and opal basil vinegars, the Guild has bottled up dill-garlic, marjoram-pepper and two surprise flavors.

Herbs will also be featured in mixes for dips and dressings and in flavorful dried bean soups, black bean, minestrone and new varieties to tempt your family's taste buds.

The Guild will offer bare wreaths and packets of dried materials with which you can decorate them to suit your own style, such as peony and poppy pods, rose hips and exquisite dried roses.

The Gift Shop volunteers have also been busy preparing for the sale, one of the Gardens' largest fund-raisers of the year. You'll receive details of their plans for your holiday shopping in the November *Green Thumb News*.

## Chatfield Naturalist Joins DBG Staff

Nancy Scalise joined the DBG staff Sept. 2 as the Gardens' naturalist at Chatfield Arboretum. Scalise will carry out educational programs using the Arboretum's abundant resources.

Scalise comes to the Gardens from a position as chief naturalist and park manager of the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department in Florida. There she taught outdoor education and organized camps for approximately 8,000 elementary school students annually and for community groups and the general public. She has a bachelor of science degree in biology.



*Pumpkin-carving demonstrations and an exhibit of antique power tools are among the features at the Chatfield Arboretum Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 10.*





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Address correction requested

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# OCTOBER

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☼ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the fall *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- |    |                                                                         |    |                                                    |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Enabling People to Garden                                               | 18 | * <i>Bonsai for Kids</i>                           |
| 3  | * <i>The Carnivores</i>                                                 |    | * <i>Bromeliad Workshop</i>                        |
|    | <i>Pioneer Graves at Fairmount Cemetery</i>                             | 19 | <i>Herbs: Legends, Lore &amp; Delights</i>         |
| 4  | <i>Gardens of Whimsy &amp; Delight</i>                                  | 21 | * <i>Four Seasons of Bulbs</i>                     |
| 6  | ☼ * <i>Colorado Birds</i>                                               | 20 | * <i>Beginning Ikebana Lessons</i>                 |
| 10 | Chatfield Arboretum Pumpkin Festival                                    | 22 | ☼ <i>Beeswax Candle Making</i>                     |
|    | * <i>Young Botanical Illustrators</i>                                   |    | * <i>Beginning Bonsai</i>                          |
|    | <i>Caribbean Feast</i>                                                  | 24 | Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum                    |
|    | <i>Tree Walk at Washington Park</i>                                     |    | Kidding Around: Gourds Galore!                     |
| 12 | <i>Colorado's Best Perennials</i>                                       |    | <i>The Harvest Wreath</i>                          |
|    | * <i>My First Nature Book</i>                                           |    | <i>Holiday Ornaments from Straw &amp; Wheat</i>    |
| 13 | * <i>Drawing Plants in Color</i>                                        | 25 | <i>The Case of the African Violet</i>              |
|    | * <i>Drawing Plants &amp; People</i>                                    | 26 | <i>Flowers of Shakespeare</i>                      |
| 14 | <i>Windowsill Herb Garden</i>                                           | 27 | <i>Inside-out Pumpkin I</i>                        |
| 15 | * <i>History of Landscape &amp; Garden Design through 1850</i>          | 28 | Bonfils-Stanton Lecture, <i>The Scented Garden</i> |
| 17 | African Violet Sale                                                     | 29 | ☼ <i>Beeswax Candle Making</i>                     |
|    | ☼ * <i>Beginning Watercolor Painting —An Introduction to Landscapes</i> |    | <i>Inside-out Pumpkin II</i>                       |
|    | ☼ <i>Potpourri Workshop</i>                                             | 30 | <i>Pan de Muerto</i>                               |
|    | * <i>A Beginner's Look at Plants</i>                                    | 31 | <i>Papel Picado</i>                                |
|    |                                                                         |    | <i>Stories of El dia de los Muertos</i>            |
|    |                                                                         |    | Chatfield Arboretum closes for season.             |

## Planting Tulips Together Is Perfect Way to Begin Autumn

Gardens of Whimsy & Delight workshop will get you both started on a happy gardening experience (See p. 7).







## DBG Holiday Sale Offers Largest Selection Ever

The herbs have been gathered, the flowers dried, the beeswax separated from the honey and the goods ordered from fine manufacturers across the United States, Europe and the Far East. All have been prepared for your shopping excitement at the annual Denver Botanic Gardens Holiday Sale, Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21.

Long-time members know that the DBG sale is the best one-stop holiday shopping in the region. For garden and plant-related items the variety is larger than at any mall—and the DBG Holiday Sale offers items found nowhere else.

The Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, who operate the DBG gift shop, have sent buyers across the country looking for unusual gifts, ornaments and books. A special workshop has met weekly to hand-craft decorative items for the home. The Denver Botanic Gardens Guild has worked steadily throughout the year collecting and drying decorative plant materials and the herbs for its famous vinegars. The volunteers of Chatfield Arboretum have cleaned and canned freshly gathered honey.

Among the many unusual holiday decorations you will find are new items in the Clothique Santas, Garden Mice and Santas Around the World collectable figurines. Holiday-motif aprons, kitchen mitts, gift stockings and tree skirts will also be in good supply.

The Associates' buyers have sought out the most imaginative bird feeders and yard figurines and the shop's line of cloth animal hand puppets, great for telling nature

## Green Thumb



# NEWS

## Denver Botanic Gardens November 1992 Number 92-11



*This trug of dried flowers only hints at the variety of decorative materials available at the Holiday Sale, Nov. 20 & 21.*

stories, has been expanded to include a disarmingly friendly raven and a guaranteed-to-be chatty chipmunk.

The holiday book shelf will be stocked with children's books of fiction and of the exploration of wildlife. For adults the sale offers the newest releases on gardening and nature.

Wreaths of dried materials have been crafted for your door, and dried flowers, pods and interesting plants in many surprisingly bright hues have been assembled for you to make

your own natural holiday decorations.

Perhaps the most unusual gift items—if you can bear to part with them—are the herbed vinegars and the fresh Chatfield honey ("The best honey by a dam site"). Look for new flavors of vinegar this year.

If you can't make up your mind about a particular gift, you may also buy gift certificates. In fact, an order form for gift certificates is included in this newsletter on page 5, along with more news of the Holiday Sale.

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*Gift Sale Gallery*  
pages 4 & 5

*Gesneriad Show*  
page 6

*Membership News*  
page 7

*Herald the Season*  
page 8



## Tributes

### In memory of

**John Harold Bohlman**

Ms. Elizabeth Mykland

Ms. Betty Smith

### In memory of

**Linda Douglas Campbell**

Dr. Jeffrey A. Cohen

Mr. D. Deane Hall, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Kany

Dr. Stanley L. Loftness

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Olmstead

Mr. Mark Smith &

Ms. Josie Weirich & Family

Dr. Oliver G. Stonington

Dr. & Mrs. Charles O. Tomlinson

Ms. Tara Zupan & Family

### In memory of

**Melvin Roger Cisneros**

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones

### In memory of Gloria Falkenberg

Associates of Denver Botanic  
Gardens

Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Balderston

Ms. Clari M. Davis—

Crestmoor Gardeners

Mrs. Cris Dobbins

Ms. Georgia M. Garnsey

Gail Wurdeman

### In memory of Nita Hiatt

Ms. Barbara S. Young

### In memory of Mary Klinger

Mrs. Ivy Fails

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Holme

### In memory of Ruth Reid Koch

Mrs. Katherine W. Beise

### In memory of Alvina Lowrey

Mrs. & Mrs. Harry B. Doyle, Jr.

### In memory of Leah McCutchan

Ms. Lucille Boles

Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Branch, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Eckenberg

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Gideon

Mr. Gene E. Goldsworth

Ms. Sibylle L. Simpson

### In memory of Vincent Pacifico

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Graham

### In memory of

**Margaret "Peggy" Patrick**

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Griffith

### In memory of Hazel Thomas

Ms. Cathy Johnson

Ms. Jan Reigel

Ms. Debbie Siems

Ms. Amy Thomas

### In memory of Paul Tramutt

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones

### In memory of Marcia Trout

The Coors Creative Services  
Bullpen

### In memory of Sandra Zeitlin

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Cody

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gelber &  
Family

Mrs. L. Richard Girouard

Ms. Billie Schlageter

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Sussman

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Whittlesey

## From the Executive Director

The November election ballot will carry a number of citizen initiatives, and one is of particular concern to educational, scientific and cultural organizations such as ours. The measure is the so-called tax-limitation or Bruce amendment, which will be Amendment No. 1 on the ballot.

In 1988 residents of the six-county metropolitan Denver area voted overwhelmingly to establish the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District and they approved a one-tenth of one percent sales tax to fund a variety of large and small educational and cultural institutions.

The Denver Botanic Gardens is one of the principal recipients of SCFD funds. In 1991 we received nearly \$1.7 million from the SCFD. These SCFD funds comprise about one-third of our total support each year.

SCFD funds support our horticulture, pay for visitor publications, help finance our horticultural therapy program, enable us to extend free admission and develop programs for thousands of schoolchildren, and finance a gardening program that serves low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in three counties.

Like most nonprofit institutions, our operating and program budgets are extremely tight. We rely on SCFD funds to finance many of our most popular programs and to improve our services to visitors and residents of the six-county area.

An analysis of Amendment No. 1 shows that if it is approved our SCFD funds will be seriously threatened, and programs these funds pay for will be in jeopardy. This analysis suggests that a progressive, major erosion of SCFD revenues would be likely, with no hope of even maintaining present funding levels. If the amendment had been in effect during the last three years the Gardens' share of SCFD funds would have been reduced by nearly \$800,000.

As desirable as limiting spending and taxation by local governments and special districts may sound, Amendment No. 1 has the potential to inflict grave if unintended damage on the Gardens. For that reason, our Board of Trustees, along with the governing boards of the Denver Zoo, the Denver Art Museum and the Denver Museum of Natural History, has voted to oppose this amendment.

I hope all our members and supporters will make an effort to learn for themselves the potential consequences of Amendment No. 1 before election day and carefully consider these consequences when they enter the polling booth.

—Richard H. Daley

## September Employee of the Month Chosen

Behind-the-scenes employee Tracy Slaton, custodian in the maintenance section, was chosen September Employee of the Month.

Since Tracy works evenings, he is the only maintenance staff person on duty to assist in assuring that special events and classes run smoothly. His ability to respond to situations on short notice have often made the difference in making these events successful. Tracy's congenial attitude enables him to work well with other staff members and contributes to a positive attitude in the operations department.

Tracy worked at Chatfield Arboretum as a seasonal prior to his hire as a full-time custodian at York Street.

We congratulate you, Tracy Slaton!

## Green Thumb News Number 92-11 • Nov. 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for January issue: Nov. 20

Subscription to this newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Denver Botanic Gardens. For information please write the membership department at the above address or call 370-8029, or 370-8032 TDD.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## DBG's 'Blossoms' Kicks Off Denver Holiday Season

The DBG holiday tradition, "Blossoms of Light," will kick off Denver's holiday season Dec. 1 with a sparkling display. The spectacular affair continues through Jan. 3 with events and activities for both children and adults.

Throughout the month the Gardens will glow with a professionally designed lighting display. Evening visitors will stroll through intricately woven vignettes of giant flowers, spiral trees, oak twig reindeer and a decorative Santa Claus. It will be a sight to turn any child into a fan of the Gardens—and any Gardens fan into a child.

Also planned are a series of evening holiday concerts by a stellar lineup of performers. Tickets will be \$8; a family pack of four will be \$28. Concert dates are Dec. 8, 10, 15, 17 and 22.

Each year, the icing on the "Blossoms of Light" cake has been the Teddy Bear Teas. These modified English high teas are a children's affair, but are designed for adult enjoyment as well. The teas will be Dec. 5 and 12, with two afternoon seatings each date. Reservations are \$8 for children, \$15 for adults.

A visit to "Blossoms of Light" will not be complete without a tour of the Lobby Court and Mitchell Hall, where lavish holiday displays will brighten up the interior. Included will be an elaborate exhibit by the Denver Museum of Miniature Dolls & Toys.

Concert and tea tickets will be available Nov. 2. Members may find more information in their specially mailed "Blossoms of Light" announcement.

## Join 'Blossoms of Light' Energy Force

The invaluable energy of volunteers is needed to make this year's "Blossoms of Light" a winning event for the Gardens.

Helpers are needed in all areas, including the Teddy Bear Teas, holiday concerts and a variety of activities that will take place throughout the month.

Your participation will contribute to the event's success—and to the holiday enjoyment of thousands of families. For information, call Joedy Arnold, 370-8049.



## Orchid Show Brings 'Jewels of Forest' to Gardens

The Denver Orchid Society will hold its 1992 orchid show, "Jewels of the Forest," in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York Street, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8.

The show will include theme and educational displays by the society's members and by other orchid clubs in the midwestern and south-central states. Vendors from across the United States will offer thousands of plants for sale.

DOS shows are characterized by elaborate thematic exhibits that incorporate flowering orchids, decorations and other plants. Hundreds of fall-blooming species and hybrids will be displayed. A complex system of judging awards prizes for horticulturally valuable plants, for horticultural skill and for botanically interesting plants in several categories.

The deadline for registering plants for judging is 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. The show is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. over the weekend. For more information call Rick Mauldin, 467-2897, or Doug Wilhelm, 730-8145.

## 'Kidding Around' Plays With Holiday Decorating Crafts

The November session of "Kidding Around," the Gardens' monthly family day, will focus on making holiday decorations from all-American natural materials: popcorn, cranberries, peanuts and pine cones.

The DBG education department will be assisted by Brian Herro, of the Denver Council of Boy Scouts Troop 98, who has designed a project to accompany the activities and is volunteering his assistance to meet qualifications for advancement to Eagle Scout.

This will be a drop-in activity; no registration is required. It is included in the regular gate admission.

The date is Saturday, the 28th. Call 370-8020 for information.

## Free Day Nov. 8

Sunday, Nov. 8., is a free day at the Gardens. Admission fees will be waived for all Colorado residents.

This is the final day of the Denver Orchid Society show. Other blossoms to see will be the cold-hardy plants in the Rock Alpine Garden. The Plains Garden will also offer a pleasant autumnal walk.

*Parents are encouraged to join in the 'Kidding Around' fun.*



# Glorious Flowers



Laura Peroni • Illustrated by Marilena Pistoia



Above: The latest titles in gardening, flower arranging and nature, as well as children's reading, make for a mandatory stop in the Holiday Sale's book department.

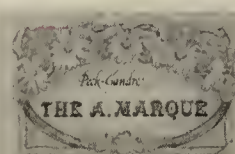
Right: These Victorian paper dolls each come with six colored and six black and white fashions.

Right: Wind-chimes and other ornaments for garden and home make unexpected, much appreciated gifts.



Let these mischievous mice figurines romp through your kitchen during the holidays.

Attractively packaged herb vinegars and bean mixes will be appreciated by the gourmet cooks on your gift list.





# We Need Your Support NOW for the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District



SCFD funding, has enabled the Denver Museum of Natural History to renovate the

*Explore Colorado Hall*, provide free admission for school children and fund the Worlds of Wonder Outreach Van. Funding has also enhanced the changing exhibit schedule, which over the last few years, has brought us *Sharks!* as well as the *AZTEC* exhibit.

If **AMENDMENT 1** had passed in 1988, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District would have lost over \$4.3 million in sales tax revenue during the years 1990 and 1991.

- The Denver Museum of Natural History would have lost over \$900,000.
- The Denver Zoo and the Denver Art Museum would have lost a combined total of \$1.4 million.
- The Denver Botanic Gardens would have lost over \$400,000.

Loss of this funding would damage basic programs for our children and our state.

- The Community Outreach Programs in addition to the Rainforest exhibition at the Denver Museum of Natural History would not have been feasible.
- The Denver Botanic Gardens and the Denver Art Museum would not have been able to provide over 800 school tours in 1991.
- Current renovations at the Denver Zoo never could have happened.

**AMENDMENT 1** is cumbersome and very difficult to interpret, but it appears that its arbitrary spending limitation formula would require the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District to refund the excess sales tax collected each year unless new voter approval were obtained. A refund likely would involve a reduction in SCFD taxes in a subsequent year. Thereafter, voter approval would be required to return the tax rate to its initial level, creating a potential for either yearly elections or a one-way downward spiral of SCFD collections over time.



SCFD funds have permitted the Denver Zoo to increase its animal and plant collections, dramatically

improve exhibits and facilities, offer more education programs and develop expanded programs in animal care, conservation of wildlife and veterinary medicine.



SCFD funds have enabled the Denver Botanic Gardens to

develop its horticultural therapy program and neighborhood gardening programs, and to improve its visitor amenities and information services.

## AMENDMENT 1

- Will adversely impact citizens who enjoy culture in the metro area.
- Will threaten future improvements and renovations planned by our institutions.
- Will damage cultural education programs and outreach.
- Will lead to endless lawsuits.
- Will add to election costs.



SCFD funds have allowed the Denver Art Museum to buy the world's finest

collection of 19th Century Western American Landscape Photography. This purchase enabled the institution to preserve the heritage of the West, right here in Colorado.

# ON NOVEMBER 3, VOTE **NO** ON AMENDMENT 1.









Above: Fuzzy hand-puppet animals are colorful storytelling assistants, helping keep children's attention right up to "The end."



Above: Handcrafted Santas and Nutcracker ornaments will brighten your holiday tree.



Santas in a myriad poses are available to decorate mantles, shelves or tables.



## Denver Botanic Gardens Gift Shop Gift Certificate Order Form

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following gift certificates:

How Many	Amount (Min. \$10)	Total
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Order		\$ _____
DBG members subtract 10%		\$ _____
Amount paid		\$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Visa/MC # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DBG Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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909 York Street • Denver CO 80206  
Tel 303 331-4009

*Certificate may be used through Dec. 31, 1993.  
Certificates will be mailed to purchaser named below.*



## 6 'Aztec' Officials Visit the Gardens

The morning of Sept. 25 DBG executive director Richard H. Daley hosted a delegation of a dozen government and museum officials of Mexico and the United States. They were in Denver for the opening of the Denver Museum of Natural History's exhibit Aztec: The World of Moctezuma.

The visitors were given a complete tour of the Gardens by gardener assistant Chuck Goodwin and gardener foreman Joann Narverud. During their DBG tour the Mexicans were invited to assist the DBG horticultural staff develop an authentic precolumbian plant exhibit at 1005 York St. for 1993.

The visitors included Bertha Cea Echenique, assistant to cultural attache in the United States embassy in Mexico City; professor Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, director of the Templo Mayor Museum; Dr. Mari Carmen Serra-Puche, director of the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City and Alfonso de Maria y Campos, Mexico's general director of cultural affairs.

DBG was the site of two 1992 gardens of special interest to the Mexican visitors, the Aztec Garden and the garden of Ancient Crops of Our Southwestern Native Peoples. Growing in the Aztec Garden, a stylized interpretation of the trellised-square design favored by the horticulturally advanced Aztecs, were ornamental and food plants from Mexico and Central American that the Aztecs knew and grew. In the garden of ancient crops grew food, fiber and dye plants of peoples in northern Mexico and southwestern United States.

The exhibit at DMNH, the only museum in the United States where it will appear, will be open through Feb. 21, 1993. For ticket information call 370-8333.

*Above right: Perennial ornamental grasses decorate the DBG fall landscape.*

*Below: The Gardens' tropical Boettcher Memorial Conservatory offered views of many plants familiar to the visitors from Mexico.*



## Gesneriad Show & Sale an 'Enchanted Forest'

The Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council will hold their fall show and sale, "Gesneriads in the Enchanted Forest," at the Gardens Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 15. Hours are 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

DBG members are invited to visit this event for the amazing variety of African violets and other members of the gesneriad plant family, the widest selection displayed in one location in the Rocky Mountain region.

For more information call show chairman Richard Schmaltz, 238-3084.

## Free Hoosier Pass Wildflower Lecture

The free Carl W. Tempel Wildflower Lecture 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, will feature "The Wildflowers of Hoosier Pass." Noted Colorado wildflower teacher and lecturer Louise Roloff will present the program.

No ticket or registration is needed, but seating is limited. See your October *Green Thumb News* or call 370-8020 for information.

## DBG Water Gardener Reaches 20-Year Mark

Gardener Joe Tomocik, who cares for the York Street water displays and their plants, celebrated 20 years as a City and County of Denver employee in October. He has been at Denver Botanic Gardens for 12 of those years.

Under his guidance the DBG waterlily collection has attained international acclaim, receiving the Award of Merit from the International Waterlily Society in 1991. It is generally conceded to be the finest in North America and draws hundreds of water lily aficionados from across the country yearly. This summer it was designated a national display and trial garden for new varieties.

Tomocik is a founding member of the Colorado Water Garden Society and a member of the board of directors of the International Water Lily Society.





## Merchants Offer Discounts to Upper Level Members

Three merchants of high-quality products have signed up as Denver Botanic Gardens supporters by offering substantial discounts to DBG members at the Botanist Club (\$120) and Conservator's Society (\$240) levels.

Birdsall & Co., 1540 S. Broadway St, Denver, will give these DBG members a 10 percent discount on its fine gardening tools, garden furniture and ornaments and on its nursery stock. Bouquets, a florist shop at 2029 E. 13th Ave., Denver, offers a 20 percent discount. And Englewood Garden Center and Florist, 3446 S. Emerson St., Englewood, offers a 20 percent discount on its extensive supply of unusual nursery items and florist products.

In addition, over 80 botanic gardens throughout the nation offer free admission, in a reciprocal arrangement with DBG, to all the Gardens' members who have joined at the \$50 level or higher.

For a brochure on your DBG membership benefits, call the membership office, 370-8029.

## Associates Donate \$80,000 For Gardens Projects

Executive Director Richard H. Daley received a check on DBG's behalf for \$80,000 from the Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens at their annual luncheon meeting Oct. 21.

According to president Catherine Romero, the donation will support an array of projects and programs, at both York Street and Chatfield Arboretum:

\$20,200 for horticulture (unrestricted); \$15,000 to bolster the Associates Endowment Fund; \$11,000 toward construction of new greenhouse benches; \$10,000 for the Gardens' Center for Plant Conservation program; \$10,000 for operations at Chatfield Arboretum; \$5,000 as a contribution to the Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Fund; \$4,800 to the library; and \$4,000 to support a horticultural therapy intern.

## Give a DBG Membership!

### GENERAL BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- *Green Thumb News* and *Mountain, Plain & Garden* magazine
- Discounts on classes and field trips
- 10% discount at Gift Shop and at the Plant & Used Book Sale
- Early admission and special check-out line at the Plant & Used Book Sale
- Free plant upon joining and yearly plant dividend
- Borrowing privileges at Helen Fowler Library

- ☐ **THE GARDENER** – \$25 – Admits one. One guest pass.
- ☐ **THE LANDSCAPER** – \$35 – One card. Admits two. Two guest passes.
- ☐ **THE ARBOR CIRCLE** – \$50 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; summer concert discounts; greenhouse tours. Four guest passes.
- ☐ **THE BOTANIST CLUB** – \$120 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; four individual summer concert tickets; ticket and merchant discounts; greenhouse tours. Ten guest passes.
- ☐ **CONSERVATOR'S SOCIETY** – \$240 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; eight individual summer concert tickets; ticket and merchant discounts; greenhouse tours; breakfast in the Gardens; pre-concert cocktails for two. Ten guest passes.

Please send a gift membership to:

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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Denver Botanic Gardens.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.

Questions? Call 370-8029.

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Denver, CO 80291-0251

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# NOVEMBER

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☼ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the fall *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- 2 \**Drawing from Nature*  
\**Ink Line Drawing*  
\**The Mixed Border*  
\**The Squirrel's Tale*
- 4 \**Watercolor Painting*  
Carl W. Tempel Wildflower Lecture
- 5 \**All In The Family*
- 7 \**Attracting Birds to Your Yard*  
*Forcing Bulbs*
- 7, 8 Orchid Society Show
- 8 Free Day
- 9 \**Fall Things*  
\**Intermediate Ikebana Lessons*
- 10 \**Orchids for Beginners*
- 14 *Holiday Ornaments from Straw & Wheat*
- 14, 15 *Gloxinia Gesneriad Show & Sale*

- 17 *Creative Centerpieces I*
- 18 *Holiday Herbs*
- 19 *Creative Centerpieces II*  
\**Flower Photography for the Beginner*
- 20, 21 DBG Holiday Sale
- 21 *Advanced Holiday Ornaments from Straw & Wheat*  
\**Introduction to Colorado Wildlife*
- 28 Kidding Around: Make it Natural!

## December

- 1-31 Blossoms of Light
- 1 \**Drawing Plants in Pen & Ink*
- 3, 4 Herald the Season
- 5 *Holiday Evergreen Wreath*  
*Holiday Plants*

## 'Herald The Season' Sets the Mood for the Holidays Dec. 3, 4

"Herald the Season," the annual party of the holiday season for DBG members, will be Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 and 4. The members-and-guests only event will be at 6 p.m. in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall, classrooms and the lobby court. Boettcher Memorial Conservatory and the outdoor grounds, which feature displays of holiday lights, will be open for evening strolls.

"Herald the Season" is a happy holiday activity for the whole family. Each DBG membership admits up to two adults and four children.

During the event entertainment will be presented by a storyteller, face painter, balloon sculptor, clown, holiday carollers and Santa Claus. Free refreshments will be served.

Reservations are required. Watch for the announcement which will be mailed to you soon. Or call the membership office, 370-8021, for details.





## 'Blossoms of Light' Changes Wattage with New Partners

A few changes have been made in the "Blossoms of Light" schedule since last month's *Green Thumb News*. A new partnership with KMGH-TV Colorado's 7 and the Denver Zoo has enabled DBG to greatly expand its winter holiday fun. KMGH has stepped in as the media sponsor for DBG's annual celebration and the Zoo's "WILDLIGHTS."

"Blossoms of Light" will be from 6 to 9 p.m. every evening, Dec. 5 through Dec. 31. During this time, tickets for nonmembers will be \$3, \$2 for those 62 and older and for children 6 to 15. In addition, for the first time, DBG will be open Christmas day.

Blockbuster entertainment will accompany the official lighting of the "Blossoms of Light" displays Saturday, Dec. 5, beginning at 6 p.m. A performance of holiday music by the Colorado Symphony Chorus will kick off the evening and a full schedule of activities at the Gardens throughout the rest of December.

Festivities include a winter concert series, the ever-popular Teddy Bear Teas, free music, and a magical exhibit in John C. Mitchell II Hall by the Denver Museum of Miniature Dolls and Toys.

The musical performances will be presented at the Gardens every evening at 7 p.m. Regional choirs, ethnic dancers and other performers will entertain on the Gift Shop patio and in other areas among the outdoor lighting displays when the weather permits—otherwise performances will be in the Lobby Court. This entertainment is included in the Gardens' admission fee.

### Winter Concert Series

Of special note is a five-night winter concert series in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, Denver's favorite blues singer Hazel Miller and her five-piece ensemble will raise your spirits.

Thursday, Dec. 10, will be a Cowboy Musical Holiday concert featuring the Pfeiffer Brothers duo and the country group, Southern Exposure.

Tuesday, Dec. 15th, the Jazz Classics Orchestra will perform. With nationally known Denver artist Art Lande on the piano, the nine-piece ensemble will re-create jazz styles from Jelly Roll Morton to the swing of Count Basie and the modern sounds of Thelonius Monk.

# Green Thumb



# NEWS

Denver Botanic Gardens  
December 1992  
Number 92-12

Thursday, Dec. 17, will be a concert by Wind Machine.

Tuesday, Dec. 22, Lazer Vaudeville... Plus will present a family variety show especially appealing to children, with magic, a laser show, dragons and more.

The concert series is being arranged by Jim Sprinkle Productions, Ltd., the producer of DBG's popular summer concert series in the amphitheater.

Tickets for these concerts are \$8 each for members, \$6 for their children, and \$9 for nonmembers, \$7 for their children. These prices include admission to the Gardens and its holiday displays. Tickets are limited.

### Teddy Bear Teas

Fans of the Gardens' Teddy Bear Teas will be happy to hear that an additional seating has been added each Saturday. Tea will be served both

Dec. 5 and 12 at 11 a.m. and at 1 and 3 p.m. The modified tea menu will include English cheeses with grapes, finger sandwiches, pigs-in-a-blanket, white chocolate truffles and holiday pastries.

Dec. 5 the whimsical, charming talents of Judie Pankratz and her marionettes will be featured at each tea. Dec. 12 Earl Reum, a DBG favorite, will bring his entertaining brand of magic to the day.

Reservations are limited to 150 persons for each Teddy Bear Tea seating. Tickets are \$8 for children, \$15 for adults. Reservations include admission to the Gardens.

Please check your mail for a special "Blossoms of Light" announcement and a concert and Teddy Bear Tea reservation form.

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## From the Executive Director

This is the season when we are all grateful for the many good things in our lives. A few weeks ago at the Rotary Club I heard Dr. Thomas Sutherland speak about his six-and-a-half years in captivity in Iran. He reflected on how that experience transformed him.

What he mentioned first among the things he longed for while in captivity was "sunlight and green grass and leaves." How easy it is, to forget how much plants mean to us, how much we rely on their presence to give meaning to us and substance to our lives.

It is easy, of course, to think cerebrally about how our very existence requires green plants for food and oxygen. But you have to believe in them anew and appreciate their significance when you hear a man—held hostage in horrible conditions, even without friendly human contact for extended periods—say that what he missed most were green plants.

So, while we are all reminded in this season of our families, friends and other good things in our lives, let us remember, also, the natural world around us which gives us such pleasure and fulfills our spirit.

—Richard H. Daley

## Tributes

### In honor of Mrs. J. Wallace

(Mary) Coxhead

Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Tanner, Jr.

### In honor of Mr. John Clark

Mitchell II, Mr. John Clark

Mitchell III and Miss Eleanor

Kountz Mitchell

Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

### In memory of Edward Able

Mrs. Robert Waterman

### In memory of John Harold

Bohlman

Ms. Betty L. Smith

### In memory of Linda Douglas

Campbell

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Connell

Ms. Sara Mann Moore

### In memory of Melvin Roger

Cisneros

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones

### In memory of Gloria Falkenberg

Ms. Georgia M. Garnsey

### In memory of Margaret M.

Garbade

Ms. Margaret Z. Merritt

### In memory of Bertha M. Gates

Mrs. Charla Gates Cannon

### In memory of William W. Grant

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Jenson

Ms. Sharon Modellmog

Mrs. Robert Waterman

### In memory of Gus Katsaros

Mr. & Mrs. Basil Katsaros

### In memory of Eddie Kawakami

Ms. Sherry Bradley

### In memory of Ruth Kier

Ms. Marilyn Weir

### In memory of Ruth Reid Koch

Mrs. Charles J. Beise

Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

### In memory of Edward F. Kingman

Mrs. Robert Waterman

### In memory of Augustus Kohles

Dr. and Mrs. Nathan Pearlman

& Family

### In memory of Alvina Lowrey

Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Doyle, Jr. &

Ms. Nancy S. Doyle

### In memory of Leah McCutchan

Ms. Lucille Boles

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Gideon

### In memory of Richard M. Millard

The Falkenberg Family

### In memory of Margaret "Peggy"

Patrick

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Griffith

### In memory of Hazel Thomas

Ms. Amy Thomas

### In memory of Paul Trammitt

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones

### In memory of Katherine H.

Van Hee

Ms. Kathryn A. Beimford

### In memory of Roscoe Walker

Mrs. Robert Waterman

### In memory of Sandra Zeitlin

Mitchell, Scott, Shari & Richard

Gelber

## Chatfield's Winning Team Is Employee of the Month

The 1992 Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield is now history, and the team responsible for its smooth operation is recognized as the October Employees of the Month: Mary Jo Christenson, Chris Hartung, Don Hites and Adam Lucas.

Their combined dedication, patience and perseverance made their first effort in planning and coordinating this event a success. Mary Jo spent countless hours on the telephone making arrangements, as well as answering numerous inquiries about the festival from would-be participants. Chris was instrumental in producing the pumpkins, contacting support services, and planning the traffic flow. Don, in addition to assisting with planning, managed the hayride drives during the event, not an easy task. Adam was instrumental in keeping the grounds manicured, as well as handling details during and after the event.

Thank you, Team of the Month.

## Green Thumb News Number 92-12 Dec. 1992

Published monthly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206  
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Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.





## Two Trustees Elected

The Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees filled two vacancies in 1992.

At its regular July meeting, the Board elected Jocelyn Gamble Childs a Trustee of the Gardens. Childs is a geologist who currently attends the University of Colorado School of Architecture. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Geology from Colorado College.



She has worked as a geologist for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Amoco Production Company.

Childs was born and raised in Baltimore but attended high school in Connecticut.

Robert L. Connelly, Jr., a lawyer, was elected at the board's September meeting. Connelly is Chief Counsel—Colorado for USWest Communications, Inc. Prior to this he was chief counsel for USWest in Wyoming.

He has also served as head of litigation and partner in Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Spiegelman, Woods, Levy & Snow, a Denver firm.

Connelly grew up in Denver and attended Denver Public Schools. His law degree is from Columbia University School of Law. His undergraduate work was at Dartmouth College. He also attended the London School of Economics and was awarded an Honors Degree in Economic History.

## Falkenberg Memorial Garden Begun

Construction on the Gloria Falkenberg Memorial Garden was completed in late November. According to DBG's Director of Horticulture James Henrich, this is the first of several new gardens planned for the southeast section of DBG's York Street site as part of the Denver Botanic Gardens master plan.

It connects the DBG Herb Garden, one of Falkenberg's favorite gardens, and the Scripture Garden with two curved paths and low walls. A curved wooden bench at the west side of the garden complements the new paths and those of the bow-knot Herb Garden. Planting is continuing.

The garden, which commemorates DBG Trustee Gloria Falkenberg, was designed by Environmental Planning and Design of Pittsburgh. Construction was begun Oct. 18 and dedication is set for spring.

## Italian Art & Gardens Cap Exciting 1993 Tour Season in U.S. and Abroad



Left, Jocelyn Childs.

Right, The Orto Botanico at Padua, shown here in an early 19th-century engraving, looks much the same today.

Chairperson Barbara Baldwin of the Denver Botanic Gardens Travel Committee has announced an exciting travel program for 1993. The eclectic calendar includes destinations both in the United States and abroad.

### Italy

Among them is a fabulous trip to northern Italy next summer. Led by DBG Trustee Edward Connors and DBG Executive Director Rick Daley, members will leave June 17, 1993, for the gardens and scenery of the Italian Lake District and the art of Padua, Florence and Milan. They will return July 2.

"We will travel to Milan, Italy, and visit the gardens and scenery of the Lakes Maggiore, Como and Garda," Connors says. "We will stay in Stresa, Tremezzo and Gardone Riviera and visit the gardens of the Borromeos, Villa Taranto, Villa d'Este, Villa Carlotta, Villa Melzi and others.

"Then we will travel on to Padua, via Verona, and Palladian villas in and about Vicenza. Here we'll see the Basilica, the first western Botanic Garden, and the unforgettable Scrovegni Chapel of Giotto.

"Then it's on to Florence, by way of Ravenna, and its superb Byzantine mosaics. In Florence we will visit the gardens and absorb the art in and around the city for three magnificent days. Our tour ends in spectacular Milan, and we will return to Denver in time for the Fourth of July weekend."

A teacher of the history of art, Connors has toured the area many

times and knows it intimately. His "Art and Gardens of Italy" was the dinner lecture during the 1990 Members' Dinner. Connors has been organizing and conducting tours to Europe for 30 years and will guide DBG members to art and locations seldom seen by American travelers.

This tour can accommodate only 22 persons. All normal expenses, including land transportation and United Airlines flights from and to Denver, are included in the price of \$4,900, with a supplement for single occupancy.

For more information, members can call Connors at 771-5842, or write him at 4 Cantitoe Lane, Englewood, CO 80110.

### Closer to Home

Baldwin also outlined several domestic destinations on the 1993 travel agenda.

April 28 to May 2 members will visit the gardens of Maryland, including Baltimore, Annapolis and the Eastern Shore.

July 8 to 11 will be a repeat of last year's sold-out trip to the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival.

September 15 to 20 is a tour of fall gardens in Massachusetts, including Boston, Cambridge, Wellsley, Salem and the North Shore.

Watch for more details in the next issue of the *Green Thumb News*, but mark your calendars now. DBG-sponsored trips are very popular and fill early.





Some plants develop such close association with a specific holiday, rite or seasonal observance that the two become inextricably tied. The poinsettia, as familiar a yuletide symbol as the Christmas tree, is a good example.

Poinsettias are native to Central America and tropical Mexico. The Aztecs cultivated them long before Christianity came to the New World, calling them *cuetlaxichitl*. To the Aztecs, the plants' brilliant red color symbolized purity. They were particularly prized by the Aztec kings Moctezuma and Netzahualcoyotl.

Christian associations with poinsettias developed when 17th-century Franciscan priests, who had settled near Taxco, Mexico, started using the flowers in nativity processions. The first United States ambassador to Mexico, Joel Robert Poinsett, introduced the plant to this country in 1825 and it was given its common name in his honor. It was first displayed publicly in the United States at an 1829 Pennsylvania exhibition.

Botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, poinsettias belong to the large genus familiarly called spurges. Wild poinsettias are leggy shrubs that reach 10 feet or more and may appear to little resemble the vivid, compact cultivars now offered by florists. Their colorful display is actually not from their flowers, but rather from the bracts (modified leaves) that surround the flowers, which are yellow and quite small. Traditionally offered in tones of red, poinsettia cultivars are also available with bracts in shades of pink, white, yellow and combinations of these colors.

## Growing Poinsettias

Poinsettias are long-lasting plants that grow well in certain indoor household situations. They require bright light, normal household temperatures and some protection from drafts. When you water your poinsettia, drench its soil thoroughly and allow it to dry out before re-watering.

Since the plants are often still showy long after the holidays have passed, many indoor gardeners want to save their plants to bloom again. Coaxing a poinsettia to flower in subsequent years, though not an impossible task for the average indoor gardener, is somewhat troublesome.

Those wishing to try it should water the plant regularly until the end of February. Then decrease watering drastically—perhaps one-half as often—to give the plant a rest period of about three months. During this time the plant may be moved

away from sunlight to a cooler location and you should withhold fertilizer. Your goal is to merely keep the plant alive, not to stimulate new growth.

Don't be alarmed if most of the foliage dries and falls off. Most poinsettias are, indeed, a pitiful sight five months after Christmas.



In early summer, cut the plant back severely, very likely removing what few leaves remain. Re-pot your plant into fresh soil and resume its regular watering and fertilization regime. Move the plant back into bright light. Better yet, summer it outdoors in a partially shaded spot.

New shoots should soon appear. Until about Aug. 1, pinch off the shoot tips periodically to promote a shorter, bushier plant. Plants summered outdoors must be brought indoors when night temperatures begin dipping below 50 degrees F.

## Getting Them to Bloom

Poinsettias are known as "short day" plants. This means that they form their flowers and colorful bracts when nights get long in the fall, naturally.

To bloom, they need 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness every night from about the first of October until December. But lights in your home will prevent them from setting their buds; lights interrupt the natural night. So you must cover your poinsettias with boxes or put them into a closet each evening during this period to keep them in the dark. Ideally, the temperature at night should be 60 to 65 degrees.

If all goes well, your plants should begin showing color by mid-November.

But although certainly a horticulturally satisfying and interesting exercise, re-blooming poinsettias at home will seldom rival professionally grown greenhouse plants.

## Dangerous To Nibble?

Apparent myth surrounds the toxic properties of poinsettias. Although

routinely listed among poisonous plants, recent studies have indicated that standard greenhouse varieties have quite small or nonexistent levels of the active chemical found in most species of the genus *Euphorbia*. Extremely sensitive individuals could possibly suffer an allergenic skin reaction upon contact or internal irritation if they eat the plants.

Even ancient custom refutes poinsettia toxicity. The Aztecs purportedly employed poinsettia leaves medicinally, and more recent peoples of Mexico use them for treating not only skin disorders but internal problems. Nevertheless, you are discouraged from using the colorful poinsettia bracts to brighten your holiday salads.

Poinsettias have rightfully become the most popular houseplant of the Christmas season. When the outdoor landscape in much of the country is at its most quiet, they provide a colorful link to nature and the plant kingdom—and to an ancient American civilization.

—Ken Slump  
Special Projects Horticulturist

*Poinsettia Eckespoint 'Freedom' is a new variety with very dark red bracts and dark green foliage.*





## Webb Funds Pilot Project for Home Composting

The final 1993 budget submitted to the Denver City Council by Mayor Wellington Webb included approval for a pilot program to encourage home composting in the city.

The program, estimated to cost \$55,000, will be a cooperative venture of Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Water and the Solid Waste Management Division of the Department of Public Works. It is an expansion of the compost demonstration project in DBG's Morrison Center and is modeled on highly successful programs in Seattle and Toronto.

In its first year, the program will enroll 2,000 Denver households to recycle their organic house and yard wastes into compost, to reap the benefits of a nutrient-rich, water-conserving soil conditioner and reduce their demand on the municipal landfills. It is estimated that up to 25 percent of the material that ends up in landfills is recyclable organic waste.

DBG will first recruit 50 volunteers to become "Master Composters." They will receive 40 hours of training at the Gardens in composting, bin construction and public relations. The trained Master Composters will provide hands-on instruction for the households chosen for the program. They will also staff the DBG compost demonstration and a new Compost Hot Line, and speak at schools and environmental fairs.

Recruitment for the Master Composters will be the first of the year; training will begin in March; and the community-wide composting program will be implemented in late spring.

For information call Volunteer Coordinator Joedy Arnold, 370-8049, or Community Gardens Coordinator Judy Elliott, 370-8042.



*A beautiful winter scene waits for visitors in the Home Demonstration Garden.*

## 'Forgotten Children' Remembered by DBG, Channel 9

On October 9, Denver Botanic Gardens joined KUSA-TV's "9 Wants to Know" program and other concerned people to mark the graves of two "forgotten children," the victims of abuse, who are buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. The children had been in foster care and had been buried without markers in a barren area of the cemetery.

Denver Marble provided markers for the grave. Denver Botanic Gardens provided and planted a blue Colorado spruce.

The story broke last spring when Jefferson County Social Services approached "9 Wants to Know" about the unmarked graves. A sympathetic report by Channel 9's Paula Woodward motivated a great deal of community interest and involvement. A follow-up story on the grave-marking ceremony aired in November.

The spruce stands in the open where other children are buried, and has become, as Ann King of Channel 9 observes, "a bright symbol, not just for the two children, but "for all forgotten children."

## Pumpkin Festival Draws 15,000

The fourth annual Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum Oct. 10 was a tremendous success, drawing over 15,000 visitors to the Arboretum.

The event celebrates the pumpkin as a symbol of fall harvest.

Families picked their own pumpkins and enjoyed harvest and craft activities, including hayrides around the Arboretum, which is on the site of two farms settled in the 1800s. The two-acre pumpkin patch also yielded gourds, strawberry popcorn and cornstalks for the visitors.

*'The Pumpkin Patch' at Chatfield Arboretum hosted thousands of happy pumpkin pickers during the fourth annual Pumpkin Festival.*





## DBG Youth Ed. Specialist Recommends Children's Books

*The Denver Botanic Gardens Youth Education Specialist, Carol Knepp, takes great pleasure in keeping up with current children's books. Here, in time for Christmas giving, she shares her recommendations. Nearly all are in the extensive collection of juvenile books in DBG's Helen Fowler Library and in the DBG Gift Shop, where members receive a 10 percent discount on purchases over \$10.* —Ed.

### **My First Nature Book**

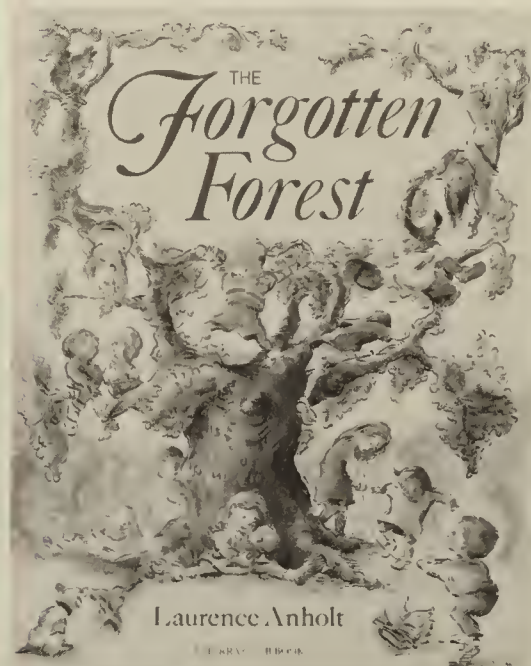
By Angela Wilkes, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, \$9.95. j QH48 .W4 1990

Learn what a cat's tail has to say, how to make a nature museum and how to design a worm farm from this colorful, large-format, explore-on-your-own book. The publishing company has produced an excellent, informative book using exciting, clear design everyone can enjoy. The pictures help more than the text. (Available in Helen Fowler Library and the DBG Gift Shop.)

### **The Forgotten Forest**

By Laurence Ahholt, Sierra Club Books for Children, San Francisco, \$14.95. j PZ 7 .A5 1992

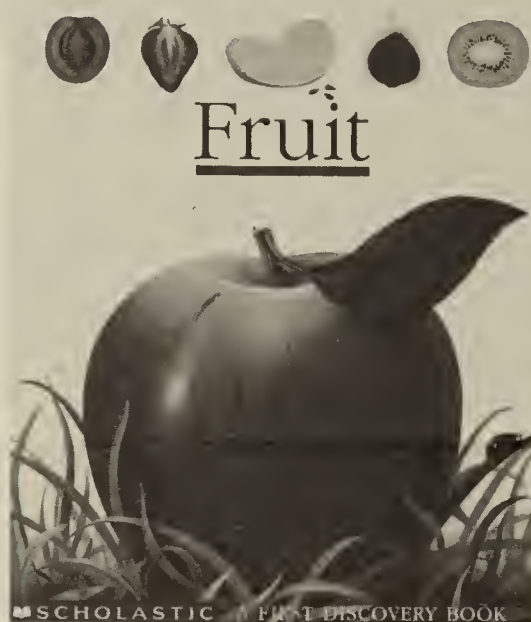
Children preschool-age to 8 years old will understand this fable of the forest; adults will enjoy reading it with them. A forest grew and then dwindled from sight and memory of all but a few children. The story has an encouraging ending and a soft message to remember. (Available in the Helen Fowler Library.)



### **Fruit**

By Gallimard Jeunesse and Pascale de Bourgoing, Scholastic Inc., Cartwheel Books, New York, \$10.95. j SB 357.2 .B6 1991

This small book uses colorful pages of transparent plastic overlays to take you inside the fruit or through the seasons of a tree. It is one in a remarkable series of discovery books by Scholastic. All of them use this method of conveying accurate information. Another one that I highly recommend in the series is *The Ladybug and Other Insects*, which presents an exciting story, aided by the overlays, of ladybug eggs changing into larvae. (Available in the Helen Fowler Library.)



### **Desert Voices**

By Byrd Baylor and Peter Parnall, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$14.95. j PZ 7 .B39 1981.

Ten desert creatures speak for themselves in easy-to-follow poetic writing. The spadefoot toad says, "They know how to wait. And on some rainy dawn they'll know to dig straight up. They'll feel the rain. They'll sing as I sing now." Parnall's sensitive illustrations bring the animals to life with a Southwestern flavor, and Baylor's lyric prose gives a sense of the spirit of the land. This is an older book, but still in print. (Available in the Helen Fowler Library.)

### **Sunflower Houses**

By Sharon Lovejoy, Interweave Press, Loveland, Colorado, \$19.95. SB 457 .L68 1991

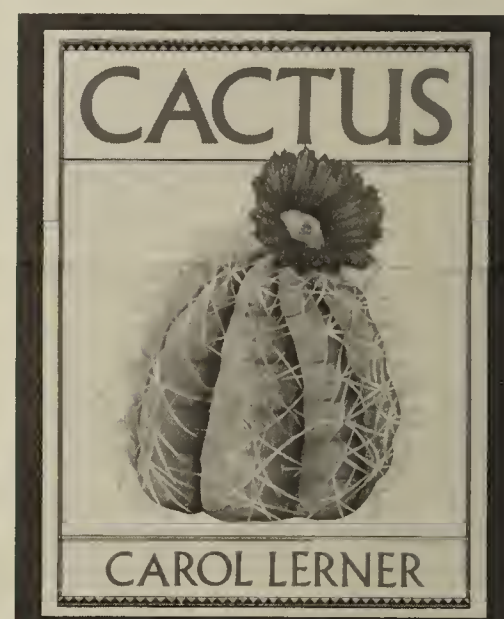
Sharon Lovejoy conducted DBG's Gardens of Whimsy and Delight workshop in October. Her book is full of delightful stories and suggestions to help children and parents enjoy

new gardening experiences. This is a book of garden discoveries and fun that includes, among many more, directions on how to make trumpet flower bubble pipes and magical pumpkin patches. (Available in the Helen Fowler Library and the DBG Gift Shop.)

### **Cactus**

By Carol Lerner, Morrow Junior Books, New York, \$15. ISBN 0-688-09636-0

Cactus is a botanical guide with a fascinating portrait of an interesting group of plants few children can resist. Carol Lerner's delicate watercolor paintings are a nice tribute to the beauty of these plants and their parts, while the text lends solid botanical substance. Anyone of any age, beginning to explore this prickly world will benefit from this book. (Available in Helen Fowler Library.)



### **Eyewitness Explorers: Flowers**

By David Burnie, Dorling Kindersley, Inc., New York, \$9.95. (No Helen Fowler Library call number, yet)

If you are a fan of the Eyewitness Books series of well-illustrated reference books, you will love this small but thorough edition on flowers. All aspects of flowers are addressed pictorially and in the clearly written text. The close-up views of flowers and their interesting parts make this a valuable addition to any collection. Be sure to look for the terrific illustration of a pollen grain. (Available in the Helen Fowler Library mid-December.)



## For Members Only: Tax Tip: Check Your Membership Level

You may be able to deduct a portion of your membership cost when you file your 1992 tax return.

The DBG membership department has estimated the fair market value of membership benefits at each membership level. The remaining portion of the price of a membership may be regarded as a tax deductible gift to the Gardens for the purpose of calculating your income tax. However, see the note below.

Mem. Level	Cost	Deductible
Student	\$8	\$5
Senior	\$18	\$5
Individual	\$25	\$7
Senior Couple	\$25	\$7
Family Dual	\$35	\$10
Contributing	\$50	\$12
Supporting	\$100	\$45
Advocate	\$300	\$55
Patron	\$500	\$210
Gardener	\$25	\$3
Landscaper	\$35	\$5
Arbor Circle	\$50	\$5
Botanist Club	\$120	\$5
Conservator	\$240	\$40

Note: If you joined the Gardens during 1992 and received a free plant for joining, subtract \$4 from the estimated deductible portion of your membership. Members at the Botanist Club or Conservator's Society levels should also subtract from the deductible gift the value of any discounts you received from our business sponsors.

Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

## 'Herald the Season' Your 'Blossoms' Preview

Members will have the opportunity to preview this year's "Blossoms of Light" displays Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 and 4, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at their traditional "Herald the Season" party.

In addition, the DBG membership and development department will provide entertainment, refreshments and—Santa. Volunteer opportunities for this very special event are abundant; please call 370-8049 for details.

Consult your members-only invitation for details and make your reservation now. You may bring nonmember guests, and you may use your Visa or MasterCard for payment. Call 370-8060.

## Give a DBG Membership!

### GENERAL BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- *Green Thumb News* and *Mountain, Plain & Garden* magazine
- Discounts on classes and field trips
- 10% discount at Gift Shop and at the Plant & Used Book Sale
- Early admission and special check-out line at the Plant & Used Book Sale
- Free plant upon joining and yearly plant dividend
- Borrowing privileges at Helen Fowler Library

- ☐ **THE GARDENER** – \$25 – Admits one. One guest pass.
- ☐ **THE LANDSCAPER** – \$35 – One card. Admits two. Two guest passes.
- ☐ **THE ARBOR CIRCLE** – \$50 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; summer concert discounts; greenhouse tours. Four guest passes.
- ☐ **THE BOTANIST CLUB** – \$120 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; four individual summer concert tickets; ticket and merchant discounts; greenhouse tours. Ten guest passes.
- ☐ **CONSERVATOR'S SOCIETY** – \$240 – Two cards. Each admits one adult, two children; eight individual summer concert tickets; ticket and merchant discounts; greenhouse tours; breakfast in the Gardens; pre-concert cocktails for two. Ten guest passes.

Please send a gift membership to:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sign gift card \_\_\_\_\_

Mail gift card ☐ to recipient, ☐ to me, by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Charge membership to ☐ VISA ☐ MC

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.  
Questions? Call 370-8029.

Please return this form with payment to:  
Denver Botanic Gardens Membership Office  
Dept. 251  
Denver, CO 80291-0251

To order by phone call 370-8029.





Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.  
909 York Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206  
303-331-4000 • 370-8032 TDD

Address correction requested

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# DECEMBER

## Coming Up

Classes are in italics. An \* indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. A ☼ indicates a class held at Chatfield Arboretum. For course information see the fall or winter *Education Programs* quarterly, or call 370-8020.

- 1 \* *Drawing Plants in Pen and Ink*
- 3 & 4 Herald the Season
- 5-31 Blossoms of Light  
Music or entertainment every evening  
Gardens open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 5 "Blossoms of Light" Lighting Ceremony:  
CSO Chorus  
Teddy Bear Tea: Judie Pankratz  
*Holiday Evergreen Wreath*  
*Holiday Plants*
- 7 *Wild Cones and Crazy Nuts*
- 8 Winter Concert: Hazel Miller and Her Band
- 9 Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day
- 10 Winter Concert: Pfeiffer Brothers and  
Southern Comfort
- 12 Teddy Bear Tea: Earl Reum
- 15 Winter Concert: Jazz Classics Orchestra

- 17 Winter Concert: Wind Machine
- 22 Winter Concert: Lazer Vaudeville ... Plus
- 25 Denver Botanic Gardens is open.
- 31 Neighborhood First Night Celebration

## January

- 1 Denver Botanic Gardens is closed.
- 6 \* *Watercolor Painting*
- 7 \* *Beginning Bonsai*  
\* *Eastern Landscape & Garden Design*
- 9 \* *Botany for Beginners*
- 11 \* *Drawing From Nature*
- 16 *Savory Stews & Soups*
- 17 *Lilliputian Gardens*
- 19 *Color in the Landscape*
- 23 \* ☼ *Naturalist Guide Training Program*
- 27 *Designing Your Herb Garden*

## BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT

Dec. 5 through Dec. 31

### Free Day at DBG Dec. 9

Wednesday, Dec. 9, is a free day at the Gardens for Colorado residents. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For information call 331-4000.

### DBG Open Christmas, Closed New Year's

In a departure from past practice, Denver Botanic Gardens will open the gardens at 1005 York Street Christmas, Dec. 25. Hours Dec. 25 are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Gardens will, however, close on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

*Southern Exposure, right,  
will join the Pfeiffer Brothers  
for a Cowboy Christmas at the  
Gardens Dec. 10.*

